Jordan Times

جوردان تايعز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن للؤمسة المنطية الاردنية ،الرأى،

U.S. protests Israeli treatment of detainees

TEL AVIV (AP) — The United States has protested to Israel over the treatment of three Palestinian-Americans jailed on suspicion of having ties with Hamas, a U.S. official said Sanday. Carl Chan, spokesman for the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv, said that U.S. diplomats "protested against the delay in consular access and the condition of treatment." He said the protests had been made "verbally and in writing," but declined to elaborate further. Israeli officials have acknowledged that Mohammad brend 36 and Mohammad Salat. 20 hast from the Chinago are research. datad, 36, and Mohanumad Salah, 39, both from the Chicago area, signed "confessions" before being given access to lawyers or U.S. consular officials. Mr. Salah and Jarad were arrested Jan. 25 white visiting relatives in the occupied West Bank. Israel made public the detentions five days later after U.S. Sen. Paul Simon, an Illinois Democrat, inquired about the men. Last Tuesday the two men were brought before a military judge who extended their detention by two weeks, but they have yet to be charged with any crime. A third Palestinian-Atterican, Mohammad Haja, was arrested at about the same time on suspection of transferring litearms to the Hamas movement. He has been remanded through this week for further questioning, but also has not been charged.

hane 17 Number 5228

AMMAN MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1993, SHA'BAN 16, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 file; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirham:

ar to be named league post

MAN (J.T.) - The governmitends to nominate Jor-Ambassador to Egypt h Al Nimr for the post of y League assistant secretary ral to replace Mohammad Al a, informed sources told the no Times. The source said overnment was holding con-tions with Arab countries Arab League Secretary eral Ismat Abdul Meguid in

-xods hit nian coast

OSIA (AP) — Dozens of the in Iran have drowned or missing due to flooding and sands are in urgent need of aid, fuel and food in coastal ras, Iranian radio reported lay. The radio report said the floods had stranded sands of people in the Gulf
of Bastak, Bandar Abbas Bandar Length. Flooding ght on by heavy rains in heastern Iran in recent days also destroyed thousands of es and severely damaged s, the radio reported. Elecy was cut off to the city on and some neighbourhoods and suffering dread and fuel tages, the radio said.

panese freed er Yemeni kidnap

IAA (AP) — A Japanese mitural expert has been freed a four-day abduction in Ye-where a Canadian is still hostage by a tribe locked in a dispute with the govern-t, Asian diplomats disclosed day. Koichiro Katsuari, 50, graded Wednesday along ciate. The incident undered the lawlessness gripping ien as a result of rivalry een political parties that I North Yemen and South en before the merger almos gi ent years ago. It also raised that more foreigners workin that country could get 2 Schmitz, kidnapped on Jan. emains a captive (see page 2). n diplomats and executives Oreign companies based in a said Mr. Katspari, an exve of the Japanese Internail Cooperation Agency, was I unharmed Saturday along a Yemeni collegue from the stry of Agriculture.

a restores major osphates complex

iHDAD (R) — Iraq has red a fertiliser complex badmaged in the Gulf war to 60 ent capacity, an official said ay. Industry and Minerals ster Amir Hammoudi Al i told Reuters the complex the Syrian border was now ucing about 600,000 tonnes hosphate fertiliser a year adjacent mines. It produced million tonnes a year before hit by U.S. and allied ks during the 1991 Gulf war.

amenei urges estinians to ntinue struggle

OSIA (R) — tran's spiritual

lay urged the Palestinian le to rely on their faith and up their struggle to defeat L. He said Palestinians expelby Israel to South Lebanon ed a big beadache for Israel this shows that the Palestii are strong and will eventriumph over the enemy by ig on their faith and through perseverance and resist-The Iranian news agency NA) said Ayatollah henei was addressing a of foreign visitors in Iran to 1 celebrations marking the anniversary of the Islamic tion that toppled the late in 1979. "Whether they (the is) return the (expelled) inians or not, and whether ake them into custody or them, they (the s) would finally face de-Ayarollah Khamenci said.

said Ayatollah Khamenei,

ag to "constant enemy

to counter islamic move-

in Algeria, Tajikistan,

Palestine and other coun-

arged Muslims to exchange

experiences and forge new

ves in coping with their

House rejects ban against Jordan observing sanctions

Deputies kill motion for obligatory voting, endorse general amnesty law

By Ayman Al Safadi Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN -- In a decision that observers said saved Jordan otherwise certain economic difficulties and international political pressure, the Lower House of Parliament Sunday voted down a motion to draft a law banning the Kingdom from boycotting or imposing sanctions on Arab coun-

Thirty-six out of 70 deputies rejected the proposal after 17 parliamentarians and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker took the floor to express their views on the proposed bill. During its four-hour session,

the House also turned down a proposal to make voting mandatory in parliamentary elections, agreed to form a delegation to lobby for the implementation of United Nations Security Council

Urging deputies to place national interests above rhetoric, Sharif Zeid said he "wished that the commitment to national re-sponsibility" had prevented the raising of what be called an unjus-tifiable motion to draft a law prohibiting Jordan from observng sanctions on other Arab coun-

Reiterating Jordan's commit-ment to Arab causes and pointing to its efforts to end the "injustice" against Iraq, Sharif Zeid said Jordan was obliged to respect the United Nations Charter and U.N. resolutions, which take

precedence over local laws. While the 40 deputies who put forward the motion did not name Iraq in particular, the comments of the prime minister and deputies centred on the internation-

pellees and passed a draft law on a general pardon issued by His Majesty King Hussein in Novem-1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"Jordan has been doing its best to alleviate the suffering of (Iraq), but if we want to fulfil our national duty towards a brethren country and our constitutional obligation to our people, we can only intensify efforts so that Iraq comes out of its isolation unde the sanctions," Sharif Zeid told the House

He said Jordan would do all it could to support Iraq and its people through offering advice and support on the international arena. "This helps Iraq and does not inflict harm on our country."

Speaking in support of the motion. Deputy Issa Al Rimoni said imposing sanctions against Arab countries violates the Charter of the Arab League and conflicts with the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, Islam

Evictees slam U.N. silence, killings MARJ AL Zohour, Lebanon (Agencies) — Palestinian evicwere the only evictees seen out-side the tents in the muddy hill-over the crisis and the Arabover the crisis and the Arabtees staged a protest sit-in inside Israeli negotiations. An Israeli offer to take back Official sources said President

Palestinian youths carry the body of 16-year-old Rind Abdul Nabi who was shot dead by Israeli soldiers Sunday (AFP photo)

their tents in South Lebanon Sunday to complain that the United Nations is ignoring their plight and the killing of Palestinians by

The 396 men, banished by Israel on Dec. 17, spent the morning crowded inside 50 tents reading from the Koran.

"Our sit-in is to protest against the United Nations and the international community for their si-lence on the crimes of the Nazi Zionists in the occupied territories," said Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi, the leader of the exiled men. "It is also no protest against the

silence of the U.N. Security Council over Israel's failure to implement Resolution 799, which stipulates our immediate return,"

He and spokesman Aziz Dweik

101 evictees and to cut the term in exile for the others has apparently put an end to serious talks of U.N. sanctions against Israel.
The United States, which dominates the U.N. Security

Council, has said it sees no need for further U.N. action. But Arab states and the evic-

tees have rejected the offer and insists on implementation of Security Council Resolution 799. The crisis is holding up Middle East peace talks.

Israeli troops shot dead six Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip in two days of clashes. Soldiers also shot and wounded 27 Palestinians in demonstrations throughout the Strip.

Lebanon, which has refused to take in the evictees or allow them

Elias Hrawi would go to Damascus for a summit with Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad while Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri would go to Cairo Thursday for talks with President Hosni

The sources said Lebanon was trying through diplomatic channels to persuade U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to include Beirut in a Middle East tour starting Feb. 17.

Mr. Christopher will try to put the peace talks back on track. Dr. Rantisi again neged Arab states to tell Mr. Christopher they insisted on Israel taking back the evictees before they discuss resuming the talks, now seen delayed until mid-April.

16-year-old killed in Shu'fat

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) - Israeli forces shot dead a It-year-old youth in a refugee camp in Arab East Jerusalem on Sunday, taking the Palestinian death toll in three days of clashes

A further 19 Palestinians were wounded in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip in clashes with troops Sunday, taking the total hurt in

three days to 72.

The clashes began when soldiers killed three Palestinian militants in a car on Friday in the Gaza Strip. Soldiers killed three other Palestinians during subse-

quent clashes Three of those killed were terrorists and what happened is for the benefit of security." Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told reporters when he left the weekly cabinet session on Sunday.

Palestinian sources said Israeli paramilitary police shot dead Riad Abdul Nabi in Shn'fat refugee camp in Arab East Jerusalem Sunday.

Police said an Arab youth was brought dead to hospital ia East Jerusalem with a bullet wound in his throat after paramilitary police fired rubber bullets and warning shots to disperse youths throwing stones at them in

Nabi's death took to 1,010 the number of Palestinians killed by Israelis since the start of a revolt against Israeli rule ia December

Elsewhere, the army arrested Reuters reporter Taher Shriteh and Reuters television cameraman Marwan Al Ghol who were covering clashes in Gaza City

It was Mr. Ghol's second arrest (Continued on page 2)

Israel jails 5 returned evictees, says expulsion policy remains cars picked up the five sick men TEL AVIV (Agencies) -- Israel be the normal policy of Israel but

took back five sick Palestinian evictees Sunday but said it had not abandoned the policy of ex-pulsions in exceptional cases. Israel Radio said the sick

Palestinians were taken from a hospital in Israeli-occupied South Lebanon to a military base in northern Israel, The five were moved to hospital last month after falling sick at a

camp in between Israeli and Lebanese Army lines which still "Five of the deportees that were in a hospital in Marjayoun

(Lebanon) were returned today by the army. The five were included in the list of IOI deportees that the government of Israel decided to allow to return," army spokesman said.

Israel's offer was for the men to return to their former status, and Israel Radio said the five were taken to an Israeli prison. An Israeli ambulance and four

from Marjayoun hospital in the Jewish state's "security zone" and drove them to a nearby helicopter, which then took them back to Israel.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told reporters a U.S.-brokered compromise for the return of the 101 evictees did not affect Israel's right to expel people in the fu-

Speaking during a break in a cabinet meeting, Mr. Peres reinday from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office that Israel would not guarantee it would not turn to expulsions again, 'We weren't asked this ques-

tion. We didn't address this question." Mr. Peres said of bargaining with the United States over the proposed compromise on the

"The Israeli position is very clear," Mr. Rabin said. "As in the past, in the future this will not

in case of extraordinary situa-

Israeli media have published a flurry of reports that the United States was angered by Mr. Rabin's assertion last week that Washington understood Israel's 'need" to expel 415 Palestinians on Dec. 17 and that Israel retained the "right" to do it again.

The compromise announced last Monday has also failed to restart Middle East peace talks, with the evictees rejecting anything short of a cancellation of all 415 expulsion orders.

Mr. Peres described the U.S.-Israeli compromise, under which 101 evictees could return and the rest would have their periods of exile reduced to a maximum of one year, as a U.S. idea. "The proposal was the United said the foreign minis-

(Continued on page 5)

ter, who is considered more mod-

Iraq warns Iran over infiltrations Algeria

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq The statement said that Iranian oppowarmed Iran of possible retalia-infiltrators opened fire Jan. 11 on which has an tion Sunday for what Baghdad called a series of attacks by Iranian infiltrators who opened fire on a car and bus last month.

The Foreign Ministry, in a statement released to journalists, said a formal protest was lodged in Baghdad with the Iranian

"The Iranian envoy was warned against repetition of such terrorist activities and told that Iraq fully reserves the right of retaliation for these attacks at the proper time and with the proper means," the statement said.

an fragi car, while others shot at a bus five days later. It did not specify the location of the attacks or any casualties.

Iraq has frequently complained I Iraniaa infiltration in the south, home to Shiite Muslims that Bagbdad suspects of har-

bouring sympathics for Iran's Shifte fundamentalist regime. Irao maintains that Iranian infiltrators, saboteurs, Iraqi dissidents, Iraqi army deserters and common fraqi criminals have attacked civilians in the south. The Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, an

which has an army in eastern fraq, said Iranian Revolutionary guards ambushed one of its veh cles inside Iraq on Jan. 11. They shot dead one of its soldiers and wounded two.

On Jan. 21, a bomb exploded on a passenger bus the movement was using but no one was injured, it added.

The Mnjaheedin have not mentioned an attack on Jan. 16. The daily newspaper Babel meanwhile lashed out at Kuwait's ruling Al Sabah family, saying foreign powers would not be able to protect the Kuwaiti regime

emergency

ALGIERS (Agencies) — The state of emergency in force in Algeria for a year to help combat slamic extremists is being extended for an undetermined period, military-backed rulers mounced Sunday. The widely-expected

mnouncement came amid reports of eight more killings, a bomb alert at the University of Algiers and the explosion of a small bomb in a government building in Constantine

A communique by the High State Council, carried by the official APS news agency, said the state of emergency, declared Feb. 9. 1992 for a year, was being extended for an undetermined

placed President Chadti Benjedid n January 1992, as part of an army effort to thwart the rise to power of Muslim fundamentalists, who were winning parliamentary elections. The voting was cancelled and the leading Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) par-

ty was banned. The manoeuvres sparked a wave of violence by Islamic ex-tremists which has left at least 600 people dead despite a series of security measures, including the state of emergency, a curfew de-clared Dec. 5 for large parts of Algeria, a new anti-terrorist law

and special courts.

Violence threatens to increase with the call Jan. 12 by the FIS number two, Ali Belhadi, for the people to rise up with the help of the army and police and join the extremists' war with authorities. Mr. Belhadj, serving a 12-yearprison term, sneaked the communique from his cell in the Blida military prison.

At least eight people were killed over a three-day period from Thursday to Saturday, security officials said.

Among the dead were a policeman and two civil police employees who had been kidnapped Jan. 22 in Algiers. Their bodies were found Thursday, their throats slashed "after having been monstrously tortured," the police statement said.

Another policeman was killed Thursday in Algiers by a person

Afghans Anwar fight in Al Khatib Russian dies at 76 AMMAN (J.T.) -- The forcompound mer governor of Jerusalem. Anwar Al Khatib, died Sun-

in Kabul battles between Afghan govern-ment troops and fighters of a Shiite group battered areas of Kabul around the sprawling grounds of the abandoned Rus-

sian embassy on Sunday. Troops advanced into the embassy compound and took one building but were pushed out later whea they came under heavy shelling from fighters of the Hezb-e-Wahdat party. Government tanks headed

southwest to reinforce the army. which surrounded the compound, occupied mainly by Hezb-e-Wahdat, but came under heavy

Residents were fleeing the area on the 20th day of fighting in the capital, pushing carts loaded with their few possessions including much-needed paraffin lamps in a city that has been virtually without power for months. At least 10 rockets slammed

into the Wazir Akbar Khan district in the centre of town. One hit a house occupied by the International Committee of the Red Cross but there were no reports

Official Kabul Radio said 12 people were killed and 48 injured on Saturday when 100 rockets hit Hospitals say 3,000 people

have been injured and hundreds

killed in the latest fighting.

attacks would not be any diffe-



Anwar Al Khatib

Ben Shaker and Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyal expressed their sympathies and sent condolences in statements issued Souday.

Marines help Somalis return home

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Under the watchful eyes of U.S. Marines and their helicopters, families of a warring class crossed peacefully into a no-man's land of their rivals Sunday to reclaim their homes after two years of

But it was questionable whether the truce would hold. The Marines plan to stay in the disputed territory until a United Nations peacekeeping force re-lieves them. That date has not been announced. Omer Salad, n member of the

peace and reconciliation committee of Mogadishu city, said up to

reclaim their homes from squat-

troyed in fighting that along with famine and disease claimed the lives of 350,000 Somalis last year. Those without homes were settling into a Bullet-riddled youth centre with mattresses and large cooking posts. Mr. Salad said is more likely would fol-

low in the days to come. . After two days of fighting, streets Sunday were bustling with hundreds of men, women and

600 Somalis had crossed from the open. The Marines entertained north to the south Sunday to the crowds with recorded music played over a loudspeaker

North Mogadishu is ruled by warlord Ali Mahdi Mohammad. Many of their homes were des-The clan opposing him are followers of Geaeral Farrais Aideed, who controlls south Mogadishu.

The sporadic fighting broke out Friday and continued Saturday after Ali Mahdi people had tried to prematurely reclaim their homes occupied by squatters before an agreement was reached. More than a dozen Somalis were children. Shops and markets were reported killed in the fighting.

Authorities seek to allay 'Abu Shakoush' fears

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

day in the Israeli-occupied Holy City at the age of 76. Mr. Khatib served in a mumber of senior posts and

was a member of the Higher Islamic Council for Jeru-

salem. His tenere as governor

of Jerusalem ended with the

1967 war when Israeli forces

occupied the Holy City and the West Bank. Prime Minister Sharif Zeid

AMMAN — Alarmed over what was seen as a disturbing media handling of a series of attacks on shopkeepers in Ammaa since mid-September, security anthorities Sunday sought to reassure the public that the situation was under control and there was no need

Major-General Fadel Ah Fheid, director-general of the Public Security Department, in comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the Jordanian police had a proven record of cracking some of the most difficult crimes and the latest spate of

He said police had intensi-

the attacks, attributed to one or more criminals aicknamed by the media as "Abu Shakousb" (bammerman), and that police had some clues with which they could work in their probe.

"Investigations are continuing in light of the available information and evidence," Gen. Fheid told Petra. "The ssailants will be identified and brought to justice," he prom-

"The fortunes of these criminals will not be any better than those of their predecessors in Jordan," he added. The police cheif refrained from using the media-adopted

term "Abu Shakoush" in his

comments and did not provide

any direct clue to whether

police believed a sole assailant

was behind the eight attacks or several criminals were involved. But informed sources said police

were strongly considering the pos-sibility that more than one indi-vidual or group could be responsible for the attacks, which occurred between Sept. 13 and Feb. 4. "Every possibility and every clue available is under the microscope."

said a highly-placed source. "In-vestigators have to consider every factor involved. The possibility that more than one person or group could be involved in the attacks is being strongly considered," the source added.

Gen. Fheid confirmed that two deaths occurred in the eight incidents, in which, according to police sources, the assailant (s) hit shopkeepers/attendants with a blust instrument — believed to be a medium-sized hammer and hence the nickname "bammerman," Six others suffered serious injuries. All

victims were robbed of cash they carried on their person.

According to the sources, the first death was that of 47-year-old Yousef Ahmad Abdul Kader Al Satari at the Issaf Pharmacy on Jabat Hussein in an attack which Jabel Hussem in an attack warm occurred during the night of 28/29 Sept. 1992; the second fatality was that of Suleiman Farhan Shahatit, 66, at Salam Electrical Appliances shop in the same neighbourhood on Feb. 4.

In both cases, as well as in the six other incidents where the victims escaped death but suffered serious ajuries, a hammer was believed to be the weapon used by the

assailant (s).
The highly-placed source said police had released a man arrested in the Windat area as a potential suspect. The man, Khalil Mohammad Al Bawadi, 35, was detained after he was seen carrying n ham-mer which he tried to get rid of

(Continued on page 2)



Major-General Fadel Ali Florid

PLO slashes spending because of money shortage

The Associated Press

TUNIS — The loss of financial support from Arab oil states has driven the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to austerity measures that could erode its support among Palestinians and jeopardise Middle East peace

Intisar Al Wazir, head of the Social Affairs Department, said the PLO's \$300 million annual budget has been slashed by 70 per cent in the 21/2 years since rich Gulf governments stopped contri-

buting.
She said the budget of her department, which is based in Jordan and handles PLO welfare programmes, had been reduced from \$8 million a month to \$2 million.

The belt-tightening causes hardship for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who depend on the PLO and affects the popularity of its leader, Yasser Arafat, particularly among the 1.7 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

For years, the PLO has made monthly payments tot-alling about \$8 million to an estimated 90,000 Palestinian

Husseini urges Romanian

families, or 700,000 people. The welfare system embraces the Israeli-occupied territories and refugees in Lebanon. Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Yemen.

There already are signs that Iraoian-backed Muslim fundamentalists are winoing over many Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Group such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad are exploiting widespread frustration over lack of progress in the U.S.sponsored peace talks that began in October 1990. They oppose the peace talks, and if they win enough popular sup-port, could force Mr. Arafat to order a walkout by Palesti-

nian negotiators. Gulf states halted aid to the PLO to punish it for supporting Iraq in the Gulf

The financial crisis is causing dissension within the PLO. At a meeting of the Central Council in Tunis, aides assailed Mr. Arafat for not increasing payments to the families of men killed by the Israelis.

"Where are we going to get the money?" he shooted angrily. "We can harely make ends meet."

That was a far cry from the

fat days of the 1970s, when the movement was rolling in funds and operated more like an international conglomerate than a liberation move-

A measure of Mr. Arafat's -desperation has been his recent approaches to Saudi Arabia for a reconciliation.

In January, Mahmond Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee and a close associate of Mr. Arafat, publicly apologised to the Saudis for the pro-Iraq stand. Many PLO officials criticised the apology, but Palestinian sources said poverity leaves Mr. Arafat little choice.

So far, there is no sign that the Saudis or other Gulf states will resume their contribotions.

The situation is tragic," Mrs. Wazir said. She is the widow of Khalil Al Wazir, Mr. Arafat's military com-mander, who was killed in Tunis in April 1988, apparently by Israeli agents, Mr. Arafat reduced PLO

spending by 30 per cent in 1991, trimmed the staff at the Tunis headquarters, closed 20 of the 90 foreign missions and banned first-class travel.

In recent weeks, according to PLO sources, he has cut all salaries by five to seven per cent, laid off more employees and shut down some PLO publications.

Even employees still on the joh complain that salaries sometimes are weeks late, even months.

Palestinian officials summoned to Tunis now stay in low-priced hotels instead of the five-star establishments they once used, or are put up by friends, the sources re-

They said travel has been curtailed and Mr. Arafat personally approves all air tickets. He has reduced housing and education allowances and ordered officials to transfer their children from pri-vate to public schools, the sources said.

Assessing the PLO's fi-nances is difficult. Its books are not open to inspection and the few people with access to them are not prepared

Insiders said the movement probably has about \$2 billion in assets, much of it invested around the world. That is half what they believe the PLO had before the Gulf crisis. The investments are generally believed to earn about 10

There are reports that Mr. Arafat has used some assets to make up for the loss of contributions, but the sources say he is reluctant to endanger the PLO's loog-term financial security.

In addition to the welfare programme, the PLO makes payments to families of the more than 10,500 men imprisoned in the occupied territories and Israel.

The PLO also finances the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. What that costs is not known. but the Israelis are believed to have seized about \$20 million in smuggled cash since the rebellion began in December 1987.

Palestinians in Jordan and Lebanon have demanded increases in their allowances to keep up with inflation. With radical opposition to the peace talks growing, Mr. Arafat can ill afford to

antagonise them. To make matters worse, Hamas, the fundamentalist Palestioiao movement, is apparently using money from Iran and possibly Saudi Arabia to woo support away from Mr. Arafat.

le in Mideast peace talks

ensureforeigners' safety

SANAA (R) - Yemen said it Yemeni, on Saturday after hold-

BUCHAREST (AP) — Faisal Husseini, chief advisor to the Palestinian negotiating team in Middle East peace talks, visited Romania Saturday for talks with President Ion Iliescu and other

At a news conference, Mr. Husseioi reiterated the Palesti-oians' rejection of a deal worked out last week between Israel and the United States allowing for the return of some of nearly 400 Palestinians expelled to Lebanon in December.

Mr. Husseini said Israel's publication Friday of a list of 101 who could return "is not enough ...we insist on full implementation of (U.N. Security Council Resolu-tion) 799," which calls for the return of all expellees.

"There must be a principle of no more deportation," he said.

some stateless residents to try to

solve one of the emirate's most

Defence Minister Sheikh Ali

Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah said in

an interview published in Al

Watan newspaper Sunday some

stateless people deserved

citizenship for helping in the 1991

Gulf war for the liberation of

Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

time a minister, who is also a

senior member of Kuwait's ruling

family, has made the proposal

The issue of bedouns, or "with-

outs," has become increasingly

controversial because of a debate

over the 40 per cent fall in

Kuwait's total population since

The public authority for civil

information said last week there

were 53,376 bedouns in Kuwait

over 15 years of age, out of a total

Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti popula-

bedouns left during the occupa-

tion. Few have been allowed to

Sheikh Ali said of bedouns,

many of whom work in the secur-

ity forces: "As a Kuwaiti 1 have

the honour to have Kuwaiti

brothers in that (stateless) categ-

ory who defended Kuwaii."
"Those (stateless people)

should have high rank in Kuwaiti

society and this rank can be either

Tens of thousands of other

the Iraqi invasion of 1990.

tion of 1.3 million.

It was believed to be the first

sensitive problems.

publicly.

Kuwait sees nationality

for some stateless people

KUWAIT (R) - A senior by granting them Knwaiti

Kuwaiti government minister has nationality, or by granting him proposed granting nationality to permanent residency, or other

Israel accused the men of ties to radical Islamic groups opposed to the peace process and allegedly responsible for attacks in Israel and the occupied territories.

But Lebanon refused to accept the expellers, leaving them stranded for the past seven weeks southern Lebanon. The peace talks, which had

beeo expected to resume shortly after President Bill Clioton took office, are stalled over the issue. Mr. Husseini, barred by Israel from formally heading the Palestinian delegation because of his close ties to the Palestine Liberation Organisatioo (PLO), is nonetheless considered its unofficial leader.

He indicated the Palestinians might abaodon negotiations altogether if Israel did not take

permanent residency, or other

Most of the bedouns are de-

scended from nomads from the

deserts of Arabia who settled in

Kuwait but could not obtain

citizenship because of strict

The invasion indirectly gave

publicity to their anomalous sta-

tus because of a debate over

Kuwait's demographic structure.

citizens accounted for less than 30

per cent of the population. The

government favours making

Kuwaitis a majority but already the proportion of Kuwaitis to

non-Kuwaitis, both bedoun and

foreigners, has slipped to 45-55.

ments by other government offi-

cials, also proposed studying

whether to grant more Kuwait

nationals the right to vote -

per cent of Kuwaitis.

eligible voters account for only 15

Kuwait's strict nationality laws,

established in the early 1960s,

stipulate that voters must be

males aged 21 and older and able

to trace family origins in Kuwait back to 1920 or before.

the love (of the country) cannot

be divided." Sheikh Ali said. "A

Kuwaiti, whether of the first (vot-

ing) category or the second (non-

voting), at the end is a Kuwaiti,

and whoever established those

differences must have had their

own reasons at that time."

Loyalty cannot be divided and

Sheikh Ali, reiterating state-

Before the invasion Kuwaiti

nationality laws.

"We decided (no negotiations) because we were convinced it was the better way ...but we have alternatives, paioful alternatives," he said, refusing to elaborate

After meeting with Mr. Hus-seini, Mr. Iliescu said Romania, "given its good relations with Israel as well as the Arab states ... offers its good offices for achieving a chimate for negotia-

Mr. Husseini agreed Romania "can do much, especially in the multilateral talks" on water-sharing and other regional issues. But he declined to say whether he had asked for any Romanian mediation regarding the evictees.

Communist dictator Nicolae

Ceausescu, who was ousted in 1989, aspired for years to a role in bringing about Middle East peace ary, citing "logistical problems."

could not guarantee the safety of

foreigners after a spate of bos-

tage-taking and asked its largest

oil operator to consider shutting

down production, an oil industry

The Western soorce said

Texas-based Hunt Oil decided to

maintain normal operations after

a series of discussions requested by Oil Minister Salch Abu Bakr

Ben Hussainoun in the past

But in the face of actions by

lawless tribes, it will "continue to

monitor the situation and curtail

the movement of foreign staff and

make them less of a target," be

consider shutting down produc-tion because the government could not provide adequate pro-

tection for foreign employees,"

Hunt produces 85 per cent of Yemen's 200,000 barrels a day

from the Ma'arib region where

the Gidaan and Nihm tribes con-

trol parts of the road from Sanaa

and are hijacking cars.
The minister "is very con-

cerned about the safety of the workers after a rash of hijackings

and lawlessness around the (pro-

duction) area." the source added.

He said the capital Sanaa, ab-

out 200 kilometres west of the

Authoritative sources told

Ma'arib, remained secure.

the source told Reuters.

"The minister advised Hunt to

source said Sunday

week.

added.

and took pride in his close ties to both sides of the conflict. Romania was the only com-

est country to maintain diplomatic relations with Israel after the 1967 war - and also one of the few anywhere to recognise the State of Palestine declared in

Mr. Husseini also met with Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu and other officials. The visit, Mr. Husseini's first

to Romania, was shrouded in secrecy somewhat reminiscent of past visits here by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. Media reports said Mr. Hus-

seini is to leave Monday for a tour of other unspecified European capitals. But Mr. Husseini refused to comment on his itiner-Yemen says it cannot

them for three days. But a

Canadian businessman kidnap-

ped on Jan. 24 was still being held.

The Japanese and Yemeni dam

experts were seized about 70

kilometres east of Sanaa, the

Canadian Mike Schmitz, from

Edmonton in the western pro-

vince of Alberta, was abducted

by Hada tribesmen. They were

apparently using him as a bar-

gaining chip in a land dispute in

kilometres south of Sanaa.

industry source said.

nar province, about 100

"It is a mixture of everything.

Criminals taking vehicles, creed

and political statements. Some

tribes want to be heard so they

are using the foreigners," the oil

Hunt has employed extra

guards, is moving staff by beli-

copter to and from operational

sites and has restricted travel

outside the capital, the oil source

But it had not yet decided to

seod depeodents home, he

A Canadian diplomat in Sanaa

'He has been treated well.

said last week he was optimistic

negotiations would lead to Mr.

He's in good spirits," said Vicken

Canadian embassy in Saudi Ara-

bia, who has been in Yemen since

Koundakjian, vice-consul in the

Schmitz's release.

last Saturday.

sources said.

upbeat

LONDON (R) — British author Salman Rushdie says he has visited eight countries in a bid to drum up international support against Iran's death order for blaspheming Islam issued four

Mr. Rushdie, revealing details of some of the trips for the first time in an article in the Sunday Times, said his visits to the United States, Denmark, Spain, Norway, Germany, Sweden, Canada and Ireland over the past year had encouraged him in his quest to bring international pressure to bear on Tehran.

Rushdie, who has lived io hiding under police protection since the death order was issued, said the effect of his meetings was "elec-

demanding that the Canadian government take this issue to the United Nations and pursue it at the World Court had been rushed the Canadian parliament with al party support and the government had agreed to act upon

Last October in Germany

lah Ruhollah Khomeini on Feb. 14, 1989, accused Mr. Rushdie of blaspheming Islam in his book "The Satanic Verses." Mr. Rushdie said be had visited

"Next stop perhaps President Clinton?" he added. Mr. Rushdie also urged the British government, which he has criticised in the past for inaction, to do more, in particular by spearheading the international

campaign on his behalf. scandal," he said.

Rushdie

In Canada last December, Mr.

trifying."
"Within 48 hours resolutions
Canadian them," be said.

Iran's most important trading partner, the foreign minister told Mr. Rushdie a cultural agreed ment had been put on hold and made contingent on the death order against him being cancel-

The order, issued by Ayatol-

Dublio since the new Irish government was formed on Jan. 12 and held talks with new Foreign Minister Dick Spring and met President Mary Robinson.

"What is needed now is for the British government to take advantage of all the goodwill generated by the many, many people working with me and on my behalf in a dozen or so countries. and to place itself in the forefront of the international community's attempts to end this continuing

GAZA IS BURNING: A mother and child pass burning tyres Sunday after fierce Palestinian pro-Baghdad says it needs strong

armed forces in volatile region a Gulf war ceasefire. Iraq, in a bid to hreak out of

Reuters

BAGHDAD - Iraq needs strong armed forces to defend itself in a dangerous region, a. minister said Sunday. General Amir Hammoudi Al

Saadi, who as minister of military industrialisation helped build up Iraq's weapons programmes, said the government did however see openings for dialogue with Iran, its main rival in the Gulf.

"This has traditionally been an area of certain aggressive design and ... we feel we need a strong defensive capability to maintain peace and stability," Gen, Saadi told Reuters. He was answering a question on what kind of military forces

Iraq needed to defend its border with Iran. The two countries fought for eight years until 1988. "Iraq is a force in the area and it has legitimate defence needs," added Gen. Saadi, who is now

minister with the newly created industry and minerals portfolio. "f can also see some hope for dialogue (with Tehran) and reason to prevail," be said.

The Iranian government month for condemning air raids on Iraq by the United States and its Western allies. Washington said Iraq was flouting the terms of

economic and political isolation. has since made overtures to U.S. President Bill Clinton, calling for dialogue and refraiming from shooting at Western planes which fly over the north and the

The new Clinton administration has not yet responded. Gen. Saadi said a U.N. decision to send more troops to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border was in line with the policies of former President George Bush and he did not

expect change overnight. "It could prohably oot be helped, given the previous momentum of the Bush policy,"

Asked about the status of Iraq's claim to Kuwait, the minister referred to a statement by Deputy Prime Minister Tareg Aziz last month. Mr. Aziz said: "The chapter of Kuwait is closed.' Gen, Saadi declined to elabo-

rate and would not say if the chapter could be reopened.

Who can say? It (the Kuwait file) is committed to the archives," he said. Asked if Iraq had resumed producing tanks and other milit-

ary hardware permitted under the Gulf war ceasefire, Gen. Saadi

"I think every country is entitied to produce what it can for its legitimate defence and Iraq is no exception.

The minister, who oversees factories that have come under scrutiny from U.N. teams dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, called for further talks on plans for long-term monitoring of Iraq's arms prog-

"There are some aspects ... we are willing to comply with but there are others that could be interpreted in different ways, more connected with people and personnel than suppliers. "That is more controversial.

We are not happy with that. We have to talk about it ... with the U.N.," he said. U.N. inspectors have said there can be no negotiation on plans for

long-term monitoring to ensure that Iraq does not rebuild the weapons programmes.

Gen. Saadi repeated that Iraq was now considering whether to give the U.N. special commission

a list of the companies which supplied equipment for its nuclear weapons programme.
U.N. officials say that without

the list they cannot certify that Iraq is is complying with ceasefire resolutions.

criminals who try to tamper with

the security that lordan enjoys,"

he said, urging the public to "allow police efforts to bear fruit and

"Much more scrious and myste-

rious crimes which occurred in

Jordan have been solved and the

criminals were arrested, thanks to

cooperation from the public,

Gen. Fheid said. "Given the cir-

cumstances and challenges facing

us, the situation of crime in Jordan

ustice to take its course."

275

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1-1

Partia

Authorities seek to allay fears

when a police patrol approached.
"Investigations proved that the man had nothing to do with the 'Abu Shakoush' attacks," said the source. "Obviously the 'Abu Sha-koush' affair was in his mind and he feared that he could be a suspect in the case since be had a hammer in his hand and that was the reason he tried to get rid of it."

The source also rejected reports that a paint-shop owner was killed in Wihdat in a Dec. 30 attack and rumours that another incident bearing the halmarks of "Abu Sha-koush" had occurred in the last

"Rumonrs and the media approach to the incidents are worrying," explained the source.
"They only cause mnecessary panic and worry among the pub-

The source was referring to

series of reports and commentaries appearing in the local press on the Abu Shakoush" affair in the past week. The government-run televi-sion and radio did not report the

Concern over media approach was also indirectly voiced in the comments of Gen. Fheid. "Crimes of nnfamiliar patterns always arouse public interest and concern, particularly when such phenomena are accompanied by exaggeration by some people who do not take into consideration that investigations are underway," he said.

Gen. Fheid called on citizens to.

"extend every possible support for the security forces and have confidence in their ability to safeguard

security and stability."

The Public Security Department has always been succes

putting an end to (the actions of)

is much better than in any other

The police chief also told Petra that police had arrested suspects in a series of arson attacks on cars and the cases were being finalised. He did not elaborate, but it is understood from unconfirmed reports that some cars and at least one bus were put on fire by unknown assailants in the eastern suburbs of Amman, without any

16-vear-old shot dead in Jerusalem

(Continued from page 1) : in two weeks. Mr. Shriteh was

09:00 09:15

last arrested in December and almost expelled to Lebanon in Israel's mass expulsion of 415 Palestinians. He was taken off the bus at the border and subsequent-Liberal cabinet ministers pro-

tested the rising death toll among.

Palestinians Snnday. The ministers, members of Meretz, said they were especially concerned that Palestinians were being shot and killed during demonstrations and that many were children.

"We are asking for much more caution" on the part of Israeli

troops, Education Minister Shulamit Aloni told Israeli Radio after Sunday's cabinet meeting. Israel Radio reported the liberal ministers brought up the rising death toll in the meeting.

Prime Minister Rabin sugsested that concerned ministers look themselves at the situation in the occupied Gaza Strip, where most deaths have occurred, the radio reported. But it said Rabin rejected naming a cabinet committee to investigate.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

PROC	RAMME TWO
t8:00	Pitit Dejeuner Compri
19:00	News in French
19:15	Magazine Sporti
19:30	News in Hebrey
20:00	News in Arabi
20:30	Step by Step Marlin Ba
2t:10	Marlin Ba
22:00	News in English Jordan Week!
22:20	Jordan Weekl
22:40	Victori
	PRAYER TIMES
	2 Mary of Street of Street,

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifleb, Tel. 210740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. Assembli 632785. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunc 637440. Terratuata Church Tel: 622366 Anglican Church Tel. 652826, Tel. 628543.

'Au

. Maghreb

Catholic Church Tel. in Orthodex Church Tel. Arment 775261. ian Church Tel. 771751. Heal Lutheran Church Tel:

Balletin supplied by the Department of

It will be partly cloudy and relative cold. In the afternoon, a cold front over Cyprus will affect northern Jor-dan, extending gradually to cover all parts of the Kingdom at night. It will get colder Tuesday and snow is ex-pected to fall on areas with an eleva-tion of 900 metres and more, which include Allous, western Access and include Ajloun, western Amman and the southern heights. Winds will be

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tcl. 823824, 654932. WEATHER

..... 6 / 17

Reuters that tribesmen set free two hostages, a Japanese man and a **JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR**

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MACH BURN

NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN: Or. Waleed Al Masri Or. Abdul Quder Al Lala Or. Mohammad Al Savwa Or. Abdul Hadi Tayyem Tres pharmacy erdows pharmacy Al Asema pharmacy Al Salam pharmacy Al Salam pharmacy Mascisani pharmacy Marionih pharmacy Marionih pharmacy Majib pharmacy Majib pharmacy Majib pharmacy Majib pharmacy	756046 732056 620115 661912 778336 637055 623672 636730 644945 637660 623677
RBID;	240-

985417 **EMERGENCIES** Civil Defence Department Civil Defence Immediate

KCSCDC	Shrin.
Civil Defence Emergency Resence Police 192, 621111,	15
Resease Police 192, 621111,	63777
Fire Brigade	89122
Fire Brigade Blood Bank	7 75t2
Highway Police	8434E
Traffic Police	8963
Public Security Department	6303
Hotel Complaints	60580
Price Complaints	66117
Water and Sowernee	
Completes	89746
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	78711
Telephone Information	
(directory assistance)	12
Overseas Calls	01023
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	62310
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661 10
Inche Television	77311

Radio Jordan 774111 . 08-53200 a Alia Intl. Airport.. HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amr	644281/6
Akilch Maternity, J. Ann	642441/2
Jabel Amman Maternity	647362
Malhas, J. Ammao	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	6641714
Stancisani Hospital	660131
University Hospital	276578
Al-Musher Hospital	46777718
The Islanda Abdel	40/66/17
The Islamic, Abdali	00012 <i>H31</i>
Al-Abli, Abdali	0041040
Italian, Al-Muhajreca	
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich	7/2113/26
Army, Marks	891611/15
Queen Alla Hospital	602240/50
Queen Alia Hospital Asnal Hospital	674t55
ZAKQA:	
Zarra Greet Housital	400J083333

Zarqa National Hospital Ibu Sina Hospital Al Hikua Modern Hespital (09)900560 . (09)986732 Princess Bases Hospital Greek Catholic Hospital The Al Nafees Hospital... (02)77555

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordaniaa (RJ) information department at the Oueca Alin laternational Auport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

99:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (R.I.) 89:45 10:15 .. Beirut (RJ Bangkok (RJ)

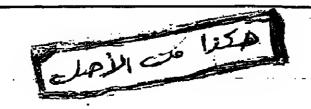
Other Flights (Terminal 2)

89:38 ... Aden (Al.) Abu Dhabi, Dobs (GF Vienna, Lamaca (0\$ Dubai, Damascus (EM

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

	-
Mc15	Beirer (R
	London (R
t:15	Toronto Montreal (R
2:10	London (R
12:15	Frankfurt (R
2:45	Cairo (R
10:00	Dhahrao (R
70	Ahn Dhahi (R
N-39	Bahrsin, Dobs (R
it: 49	Dubai, Muscat (R
	-

Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF) MARKET PRICES 640 / 640 160 / t00 210/ 160 t50 / 89 Marrow (large).
Marrow (small) 180/ 120 210 / 189 180 / 120 250/ 200 130/ 60



HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Queen to visit Salt handlcraft centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday will pay a visit to the Salt Handicrafts Training Centre where she is scheduled to inspect handicraft training and production facilities. included in Her Majesty's visit programme will be workshops for silk screening, ceramics and decoration, in addition to the newly established clay production section, pilot weaving and ceramics production units and the showroom. The Salt Handcrafts. Training Centre was established in 1987 by the Salt Development Corporation (SDC) with funding and technical assistance from the Italian government. Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) took over management and development of the atre in March 1988 after an accord was signed with SDC.

Crown Prince sends condolences to Barto family

AMMAN (Petra) - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday delegated his secretary to convey his condolences to the mily over the death of Ali Barto. His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the Personal Representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Sunday called at the Barto home, and offered condolences to the family.

Princess Sarvath discusses education needs with Canadians

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath received Sunday head of the Canadian Community Colleges Society Tom Nortoo and President of the Canadian Federal College Roy Murray. Princess Sarvath and the two Canadian officials discussed educational issues, particularly vocational education in community colleges. They also discussed the issue of education meeting the needs of the local society as a means to counter the problem of unemployment. At the end of the meeting, the Canadian delegation presented Princess Sarvath with a certificate in appreciation of her contributions to the Jordanian-Canadian Programme on Learning Disabilities. The meeting was attended by Senators Saeed Al Tal and Husni Ayesh and several other officials.

Senate judiciary discusses 2 laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament Judiciary Committee Sunday discussed the revised telecommunication law, and made a recommendation to the Senate to adopt it, as referred by the Lower House without any amendments. The committee also discussed the draft law on illegal acquisition of wealth, which was returned to the Senate by the Lower House, and recommended that the Senate stick to its former decision on this law. Also Sunday, Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi called the Senate for session on Thursday to pursue discussion of issues

Ministry attends atomic energy meeting in Tunis

AMMAN (Petra) - A delegation from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, headed by the ministry's secretary general Abdul Wabab Al Zu'bi, Monday leaves for Tunis to take part in the meetings of the executive committee of the Arab Atomie Energy Agency (AAEA). Mr. Zubi, who is also the chairman of the executive board of the AAEA, said the meeting will discuss a recommendation by a special committee to set up an Arab centre for nuclear sciences in Tunis and a memorandum by the agency's general secretriat on Kuwait's decision not to withdraw from the agency.

Red Crescent head appeals to ICRC

AMMAN (Petra) - President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (INRCS) Mohammad Mitled Al Hadid Sunday urged the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to protect Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails following news reports that the Israeli government had prepared new regulations for the Israeli security service, Sbin Bet, exempting it from responsibility if any prisoner dies during interrogation. In a cable sent to the ICRC head in Geneva Sunday Dr. Hadid said if these regulations were approved by the Israeli government, they will be in violation Fourth Geneva Convection calling for protecting civilians living under occupation. Article 31 of the convention, Dr. Hadid said, prohibits any coercion or use of force against people covered by the convention, particularly if the aim was to gain information.

Environment, energy symposium to begin

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollotion Ahmad Obeidat will open a symposium on environment and energy at Amra Hotel's Nabatean Hall. Taking part in the symposium will be 100 participants and institutions, as well as non-governmental organisations concerned with environmental issues. The symposium will shed light on environmental problems resulting from energy and the appropriate methods of using energy. The symposium aims at encouraging the use of alternate sources of energy, such as solar, water and bio-gas. Participants will also discuss uses of nuclear energy and possibilities of using it in Jordan.

Ramtha celebrates illiteracy eradication

RAMTHA (Petra) — The Ramtha district Education Department organised Sunday a celebration at Al Zahra Secondary School making the Arab Day for Illiteracy Eradication. Department Director Atallah Al Doujan delivered an address at the celebration in which he lauded efforts exerted to eradicate illiteracy in the Kingdom. He also underlined the importance of the Ministry of Education's adult education centres and commended their role in curbing illiteracy rates in Jordan. Other speakers also praised the Ministry of Education. The celebration was attended by several district officials and illiteracy eradicatioo centre students and teachers. The number of illiteracy eradication centres in Ramtha district stands at 16, where 350 adult students

Jordan to discuss ties with Islamic republics

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has recognised the newly independent Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union and will soon appoint non-resident ambassadors to those countries, according to Deputy Premier and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat.

Mr. Suheimat, a member of the Jordanian delegation scheduled to leave for Moscow Monday at the start of a tour of Russia and the new Islamic states, said in a statement that the delegation will strive to bolster Jordan's cultural, economic and political relations with these countries.

Mr. Subeimat said Jordan will offer its expertise in various fields to the new states and will open the Al al Bait University in Mafraq for studeots from the Islamie republics.

Mr. Subeimat said that the delegation's visit aims primarily at bolstering relations between Jordan and the Islamic republics, adding that the delegation members will hold wide range discussions with government officials in

His Majesty King Hussein Saturday expressed Jordan's de-sire to build strong ties of coop-eration in all fields with the Islamic republics.

The delegation, made up of representatives of various public and private sectors, is led by Chief Chamberlain Prioce Raad Ben Zeid.

Amman to host biotech meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) will hold the second Arab Conference on Perspectives of Modern Biotechnology from

April 24 to 28 m Amman. The conference, jointly called for by ESCWA and the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), in Jordan, aims at enbancing ioterest in biotechnology-related research and applying and promoting opportunities of biotechnologybased investments.

It will briog together experts and representatives of interna-tional institutions and companies with their Arab counterparts; as well as parties in charge of biotechnology-related designs, policies and programmes.

Duriog the conference, the participants working in fields related to modern biotechnologies in the Arab countries and abroad will organise an exhibit of products, processes, projects, books and brochures on their relevant activities.

The conference scientific committee has already received more than sixty working documents to be presented during the conference, from the following Arab coontries: Algeria, Babrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine occupied territories, Sandi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Thus far documents deal with, the applications of biotechnology in agriculture, including tissue cultures; the applications of biotechnology in industrial processes; the applications of biotechnology in environment protection and the treatment of ndustrial waste; the applications of genetic engineering; the pharmaceutical and medical applications, incentives and obstacles facing the biotechnology-based iovestment projects io the Arab

Health Ministry announces major expansion of medical facilities, services and staffing

demand on medical services, the Ministry of Health will open six new integrated health centres, 12 clinics, three small health units, 11 dental care centres and 21 mother and child health care cen-

tres in the Kingdom doring 1993. The announcement was made Sonday by Minister of Health Aref Bataineh who said teoders have already been announced for the maintenance and development of Al Bashir Hospital in the Ashrafieh district, Al Hussein Hospital in Salt, and Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid.

Dr. Bataineh said the health mioistry plans to enlarge Al Ramtha Hospital to ioelude emergency, first aid and labora-tory sections, in addition to a blood bank. He added that the ministry will

also start building the 600-bed King Abdullah Training Hospital at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). According to Dr. Bataineh, the children's, burn, and orthopaedic sections at Al Bashir Hospital have been enlarged, and 105 new beds have raised the total to 695.

The minister said health centres

AMMAN (Petra) — Io its drive in remote regions are being over-to cope with the ever-growing looked by nurses who prefer to looked by nurses who prefer to stay in urban centres.

The ministry is striving to overcome the shortages at these centres where nursing services are below standard, Dr. Bataineh

He also said staffing at Jordanian hospitals and bealthcentres is still lacking, particulary in specialised nursing in services including intensive care, care of burn patients and surgeries. In order to attract specialists

and doctors to the health ministry, Dr. Bataineh said that a pecial "incentives allowance" is being given to physicians and specialists under an agreement announced last August. He said a committee has been

established to determine the nature of work for which a doctor would be entitled to such allo-

Dr. Bataineh added that daily paid workers employed by the Ministry of Supply and the Am-man Municipality will be added to the list of people benefiting from the Ministry of Health's medical services at all health centres and government hospitals

New blood bank opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan a new branch of the National Blood Bank (NBB) in west Amman will open Monday, a statement from the Ministry of Health announced.

Because of the rapid increase of the population in Jordan particularly during the last two years, the expansion of Amman and an improved health care structure, three new hospitals were opened during 1992 the statement said. Three more hospitals are under construction in vest Amman area, it added. Jordan's medical reputation has attracted patients from neigh-

bouring countries for highly specialised surgical and medical treatment such as open heart surgery, organ transplants and cancer-treatment, the statement said.

According to the Ministry of Health, these circumstances necessitate a growing demand for

blood and blood products. In addition the ministry plans to expand its blood transfusion



service and therefore the establishment of a new branch of the NBB in west Amman is paramount, the statement said.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is helping to finance the project at a cost of about \$450,000, the ministry said.

According to the statement, U.S. aid assistance includes pro-

viding a modern mobile unit which will help increase blood collections from donors across the country, as well as equipment, computers, and staff training in certain areas of blood banking.

The government of Jordan will provide the new branch with trained staff from the ministry's National Blood Bank, and cover operating costs without reducing the current budgetray allocation for the NBB the statement said. According to the ministry, the

same regulations and with the same high standards and quality control of the NBB. The main function of this branch will be to collect blood from healthy donors following

appropriate laboratory and medical examinations, the statement said. The blood will then be sent to

the National Blood Bank for processing into components, testing for infectious diseases and conforming blood group, and other necessary tests, the ministry added.

Kabariti hopes labour meeting will renew Arab cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabariti Sunday expressed hope that the upcoming Arab Labour Organistion (ALO) conference due to convene in Amman the first week of April, might help to rekindle solidarity among Arab countries and renew cooperation in labourrelated fields,

In a preparatory meeting at the, ministry with ALO Director Geoeral Baker Mahmoud Rasoul, Mr. Kabariti said Jordan will participate in the conference with a delegation of representa-tives from the Ministry of Labour and the employers and the workers unions. The conference agenda in-

cludes issues such as working women and their role io development, the role of women in Islam and their status in Arab legislation, the Arab strategy for retment and iotegration of the Arab labour force.

In addition, the integration of the disabled and their employment in jobs suitable to their capabilities, the working environment, occupational health and safety, and freedom of labour io



Abdul Karim At Kahariti

the Arab World, are also part of the conference agenda, he said. Mr. Kabariti and Mr. Rasoul reviewed the agenda and the composition of the participating delegations, means of ensuring the success of the forthcoming

A delegation accompanying Mr. Rasoul was present at the

WHAT'S GOING ON

★ Exhibition entitled "Modernist Still Life Photographed" at the

- Exhibition of watercolour paintings by Syrian artist Nazir Nab'a at Baladaa Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by the late Syrian artist Alfred Hatmal
 at Al Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis city.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States Ghada Jamal, Helen Khal, Suha Noursi and Afaf Zurayk - at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jabal Amman, between the First and Second Circles. * Exhibition of photographs by Jean-Philippe Reverdot at the
- French Cultural Centre.

SEMINAR

- English language seminar entitled "Teacher Support and Self-evaluation by Teachers" at the British Council at 5:30
- * French film entitled "L'amoureuse" at 8 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (98 min., 1987)

'Lost passport' notices — a way out for many 'illegals'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Notices of "lost" Indian passports appearing in the Jordan Times come mostly in line with a directive by the embassy of India in Amman to Indians approaching the mission seeking new passports to replace lost

Such advertisements, which Ennounce the loss of passports and request finders to contact the police or the embassy of India. have appeared with increasing frequency in the Jordan Times in the past three years, particularly after the authorities stepped up measures against illegal guest workers in the Kingdom.

. The rationale behind the embassy directive to passport applicants that they put an advertisement in the newspaper as a. precondition for the acceptance of their applications is multi-fold: it fulfils a basic requirement under the regulations of the Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and informs concerned people that the passport has been re-

ported lost. In many cases the embassy received the 'lost' passports from the Jordanian immigration authorities a few days after the advertisements appeared. The authorities reported that the documents were seized during raids on groups which operate a Incrative trade of furnishing work and residence permits - in some cases forged documents - to

illegal guest workers. There have also been dozens of cases where the passports have disappeared altogether; either the documents were actually lost or someone suppressed them somewhere.

Inquiries made by the Jordan Times reveal that:

— during the early eighties the business of furnishing residence and work permits for Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan nationals boomed with a high demand for foreign labour in Jordan. Some organised groups were specialised in securing the relatively, easily available permission to employ foreign labour in the agricultural sector.

The catch was that while a foreigner may hold a residence permit showing him as a farm worker, he may actually be working in some other trade which is not permitted by the local author-

Holders of such documents annually renewed their papers without moch fear of detection in the early eighties. The groups which helped them used to charge them anythiog between JD 70 to JD 150 per head for the renewals.

But the authorities grew wiser to the game and launched a concerted drive to put an end to it in the late '80s.

Many groups were raided and hundreds of passports seized during searches on their premises. Thousands of Asian workers employed in sectors which are not authorised by the Ministry of Labour were exposed and ordered out or deported.

"Many of those who are now reporting lost passports are the ported. remnants of those illegal workers," said an informed source. "They managed to elude the authorities so far, but they always faced the problem of how to leave

the country even with a passport since they bad incurred hundreds, if not thousands, as penalties for overstaying their residence per-In a few cases, sources say,

some managed to leave the country on stolen passports and related residence documents. "Such departures are possible for people from certain distinct

regions of India," commented one source. "Their features are almost undistinguisbable and therefore most of them can pass for one another at immigration points.

Guest workers caught by the authorities face deportation; in such cases the penalties are warved and the concerned diplomatic mission arranges' for their passage home. Hundreds surrendered to the authorities to avail themselves of the exemptioo from the penalty and were de-

But those who remained behind without proper documents for their work and stayed in Jordan had no option but to pay the penalty.

The Department of Foreigners Affairs at the Ministry of Interior reported a total of 1,950 residence permits - either renewed or issued for the first time granted to Indian nationals in

But informed sources say that several bundred remained without any permit during the year. "If they were to approach the aothorities for proper work and residence permit, then they faced the prospect of paying several hundred dinars as work permit charges in addition to a huge sum as penalty for overstaying," said one source. "Very few of them had the money to do that."

With the general amnesty granted by His Majesty King Hussein on Nov. 14, those who have overstayed their permits have to pay the JD 1 per-day penalty only for the period after the date of the amnesty since all previous penalties were cancelled by the royal gesture.

Many have already taken dvantage of the amnesty and left

RJ maintenance services to earn millions in fees

AMMAN (J.T.) - Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national air carrier. Sunday announced that its aircraft maintenance facility will earn it millions of dollars for services to airlines operating in

An RJ press release said at least \$4 million were expected shortly adding that the airline's servicing facility at Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) has witnessed a growing demand for services on aircraft bodies and engines of international carriers Four Pratt Whitney engines

owned by Algerian Airways, a similar engine from Air France and another from Alyemda, the South Yemen airline, arrived early this year for checking, the

statement said.

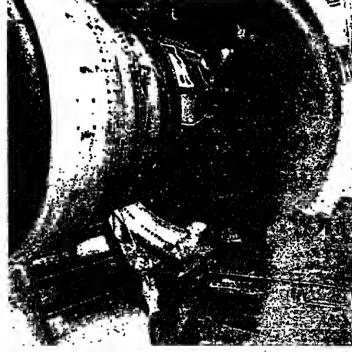
Fees for servicing these engines alone should bring revenues of \$1

million, RJ said. Egypt Air and Egyptian ZAS
Airline have concluded an engine servicing agreement with RJ. The engines are due in Ar coming two months, the press

It said RJ is also negotiating with the Lebanese Middle East Airlines (MEA) and Syrian Airways on similar service agree-

Maintenance work is nearing completion on the bodies of an Alyemda Boeing 727 and a Boeing 707 owned by Comtran, a

U.S. firm, the statement said. Service and maintenance bas been conducted by RJ on planes



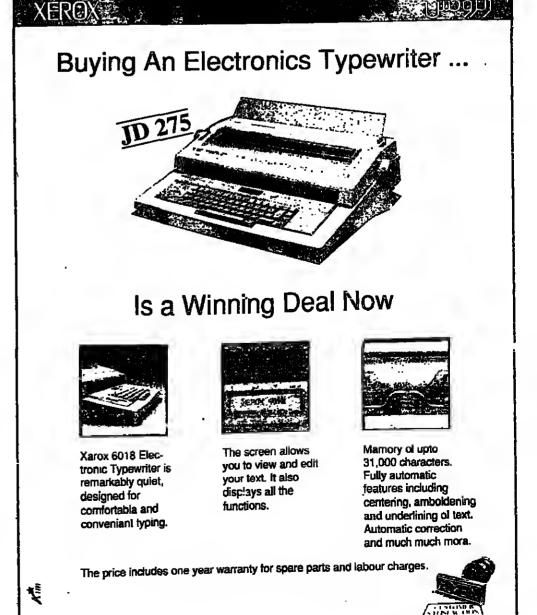
Royal Jordanian's maintenance facility at Queen Alia Airport provides services to numerous international airlines (File photo)

and engines owned by French, Canadian Sri Lankan, Cypriot, Yemeni, Algerian, Egyptian, Sudanese and Syrian airlines, in addition to U.S. Seagreen and Buffalo airlines.

Royal Jordanian recently reported bighly successful operations during 1992, after overcoming the negative consequences of the Gulf crisis and the world

economie recession. RJ President and Chief Execufive Officer Mahmoud Balqez told an RJ marketing conference in December last year that the airline's revenues came to nearly JD 253 million; an 18 per cent

increase over 1991 figures.



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By Waleed Sadi

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Tubscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Frosty grip of ice

according to the latest weather reports from the Per artment of Meteorology, rain and snow will again his Jordan beginning "Monday night." This is both good and bad news. Good because Jordan call still use more rain to replenish its reservoirs and irrigate its land. The bad news, however, is that many people will exploit the new snowstorm to close shop and sit at home, decreasing productivity and straining resources the to increased consumption. This is exactly what happened last week when life in the Kingdom came to a near standstill when the first flakes of snow fell. Not andy were schools closed then but so were most public rervices, including many supermarkets, car garages, and even restaurants

In a way, our people are to blame for showing panic Entarcessarily, especially when they begin to hoard loodstuffs as if their stay at home will be forever. It is as if snowfall, even when light, has become a licence to stop work activities. On the other hand, though, the government has been contributing to this unfortunate state of affairs not only by encouraging stoppage practically at every conceivable level but also by not doisig enough to keep all arteries of the country open

and safe for transportation. If last week's demonstration by the concerned enthorities is anything to go by, many streets in the copital and other snow bound cities will this time be Papassable or unsafe. The public cannot be expected to take incalculable risks and drive to work as long as the mublic sector confines its activities to only highways and thoroughfares, leaving streets and avenues un-touched by machinery or salt. There is an abundance of cheap salt, which is actually also not fit for human consumption, that can be easily used to melt accumulating snow and prevent dangerous ice from forming feature of winter in Jordan, we would have thought that by now the authorities would be better prepared for all-weather possibilities.

Jerdanians need encouragement not to close their Affires and shops and go home at the first sight of for paying most attention and giving priority to their and their children's safety and well-being when the burcaucracy does not do its homework. There is a tremendous economic cost to the country every time it half: its activities because of bad weather, and this cost for exceeds any expense of the central government when preparing all official departments to cope with amorgencies. It would be worthwhile to consider the gostibility of more snow falling in the weeks ahead, med in coming winters, and to plan for "no stoppage" one prigns when rain turns into snow and snow into ice en our mountain slopes.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL GA't Arabic daily described tsrael's killing of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip Saturday as another link in the chain of atrocities that began with the expulsion of the 415 Palestinians to southern Lebanon. No doubt that Israel is being encouraged in its drive to pursue aggressive acts against the Palestinian people by the U.S. stand and the absence of sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council on the Jewish state's failure to comply with Resolution 799, the paper said. It said that by pursuing its influence practices and crimes in the occupied lands, Israel is (rving to) push the Arab parties away from the negotiating table and away from the peace process altogether. The paper said that in two days, the Israelis murdered six Palestinians, four of whom fell Saturday alone under the eyes of the world community which is doing nothing to come to the help of the oppressed people. Encouraged by the United States and condoned for its action by the Security Council, the Israelis will no doubt continue to commit crimes, the paper continued. One should not be surprised if Washington takes a step to reward Israel for its aggression and its continued disregard of the U.N. resolutions, the paper said. The killing of the Palestinians came close on the heels of a sinister deal between Israel and the United States which manifested itself first by an open Israeli defiance of the U.N. resolution, the paper added. The paper expressed apprehension of a new trend in American policy designed to further subdue the Arab parties and force them to go to the negotiations against their will, regardless of the fate of the Palestinians deported to southern Lebanon. A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily said that if Washington feels unable to force Israel to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, it could never be able to force it to implement the previous resolutions. Tareq Masarweh said that Washington has to date failed to demand that Israel pull out of a single inch of southern Lebanon, in accordance with Resolution 425, nor did the U.S. ask Israel to ever stop killing Palestinian children and demolish Palestinian houses. At the same time, Washington seeks to end the Arab states' boycott of Israel, ensure Arab states' recognition of the Jewish state, make Arab forget about their is urped and occupied lands and capitulate to Israel's will, he said. with this state of affairs, Washington is not eligible to play a mediation role to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and, being totally biased towards Israel, there can be no point for Washington to send Warren Christopher to the Middle East, he added. The writer expressed belief that the ongoing peace talks could never achieve progress, even if they continued for 10 years, simply hecause Israel does not intend to give up occupied Arab land nor is Washington interested in such a development. It is regrettable, said the writer, to see Arab leaders declaring that they had read at the point of no return in the peace talks with Israel at a time when the Arab leaders hear loud and clear Mr. Rabin's threatening the Arabs with pulling out of the negotiations should her name have his own way and should he be reprimended by the Security Council for not complying with its resolutions.

Weekly Political Pulse

Israel-PLO negotiations are ineluctable

Although Israel's Labour-led government still insists on not dealing with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) directly, even after repealing its 1986 law banning contacts with the Palestinian organisation, there are solid reasons to believe that Israel is fast reconciling itself with the inevitability of negotiating with the PLO sooner rather than later. Till this point in time, the Israeb political machine bas yielded only to the logic of talking with the Palestinian organisation in an indirect way, having recognised that its Palestinian interlocutors at the negotiating table are for all intents and purposes genuine PLO representatives. What keeps Israel from plunging deeper into the reality of the Palestinian equation could be only a tactical move aimed at

extracting more concessions from the Palestinians. What could accelerate the Israeli movement in the direction of according the PLO full recognition is the emergence of the Hamas faction as a fast growing political and military force in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over the past few years. Israel was the first to recognise that Hamas' advancement was at the expense of other Palestinian PLO groupings, especially the centre and left of centre factions. Against this backdrop, Israel is faced with two alternatives: Either to play ball with the moderate Palestinian elements or risk leaving the field wide open to the rising fundamentalist organisations. The timing for rescinding the 1986 law outlawing contacts with the PLO suggests that indeed Israel is labouring on the premise that shunning the PLO as such would

only play into the hands of Hamas in particular. It can be presumed therefore that in the course of the upcoming months, if not weeks, more Israeli moves will be taken to realise full Israeh-PLO dialogue. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is the only Arab leader in the post-Camp David era that is on record as calling for direct peace negotiations at the highest possible level. Mr. Arafat even proposed to visit Israel, something that no other Arab head of state has found acceptable to do at this stage of the negotiating process. What is holding Israel from responding to such Palestinian peace overtures is something that only time will resolve. It is more probable than not, however, that the point will he soon arrived at as Israel inches ever closer to direct contacts with the PLO.

What is also helping advance the PLO as a full-fledged player in the peace parleys is Jordan's refusal to replace the Palestinian organisation. His Majesty King Hussein bas made it clear over and over again that he will not negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians even though considerable Palestinian constituencies would have boped that he does. King Hussein's stance on this issue has been driven by one simple concern, and that is to help elevate the PLO to the role of full player in the peace process. The 1987 decision to break legal relations with the West Bank was also motivated by the national verdict that, on balance, it would be better for all sides to let the Palestinians speak for themselves and through their political institution, the PLO. Israel is inching closer to this conclusion and it is only a matter of time before the Labour-led government yields to the logic and momentum of this universally-beld consensus: That in order to bind all future Palestinian generations to the projected Palestinian-Israeli peace it would be advantageous to earn the agreement and blessing of the PLO in particular.

Yet, Jordan's role will continue to be central and critical. Jordan has thus far provided an artificial umbrella that facilitated the Palestinians' active involvement in the peace process right from the start in the face of Israel's objections to talk peace with them on equal footing with the other parties to the peace talks. In addition, Jordan is still poised to facilitate the success of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations by agreeing to entertain a pivotal role in the implementation of any agreed upon peace treaty between them. This could take the form of federation with the Palestinian political structure that is anticipated to emerge from the peace parleys. Such an arrangement would not only make any future Palestinian political infrastructures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip viable politically but also economically.

What the future holds for the region in terms of wider economic associations, bringing more Middle Eastern states together in one. large common market, is something that is open for conjecture at this point in time. Yet the prospects are there to emulate other regions of the world by creating a regional economic market that can withstand the competition of other regions of the world. In spite of the existing frustrations and setbacks over the seemingly anaemic peace negotiations, whether on the bilateral or multilateral levels, there is a clear peace momentum that will continue to move forward, generated by its own inertia. This is the logic of contemporary history and the spirit of the new era in international

Gaza children live and die under the gun

By Sara Helm



Gaza in uprecedented numbers. Statistics prepared by UNRWA, the U.N. relief agency in Gaza and the West Bank, show that of the 28 Palestinians killed by Israelis in Gaza since the beginning of December, 10 were children under the age of 16; nine were shot by soldiers, one by a

settler. This is more in two months

start of the intifada in 1987. Between Dec. 2 and Jan. 23, 182 children were treated in UN-RWA clinics or local hospitals after being shot with live ammunition, defined as 5.56 calibre bullets with metal or plastic tips. Several more children were injured by plastic-coated metal marbles, fired in sprays of up to 12, or by severe beating or than in any full year since the by being struck by tear gas canis-

The number of injuries above the abdomen led to reports, strongly denied by the army, that open-fire regulations, which say shots should be fired at legs first, had been relaxed. The death on Dec. 19 of 10-year-old Rana Abu Tuour, shot dead by a sniper in Khan Younis camp as she left home to buy milk, first highlighted the killings. This week the

military governor of Khan Younis called the family to his office. "He said he apologised. He said they shot Rana by mistake," said her mother. But no explanation was given, no inquest report, no compensation.

Whether the open-fire regulations have changed or not, it is easy to see why the deaths happen. There are a lot of very nervous soldiers in Gaza. The

killings in December of three soldiers by Palestinian gunmen heightened tension which has since been fuelled by fear of ... retaliation for Israel's deportation of 413 suspected Islamic mili-

tants, many from Gaza. A frightened Israeli soldier, posted to Gaza, has little training or experience to fall back on when intimidated hy crowds of taunting children. There is no riot control procedure. He has no . shield, no truncheon. He holds a gun and his first defence is to shoot, Whatever the rules, wherever be shoots in Gaza he will puncture a wall of children. Children flock everywhere. Some 800,000 Palestinians live here. more than half in refugee camps.

In the carly days of the intifada percats tried to keep their children off the streets. It was the older youths who were seen throwing the stones in clashes with the army. But as the intifada spread, the children took directions less from their parents and more from the street leadership. Their only heroes now are the masked men, and children scan results of clashes pasted to mosque walls like children elsewhere average age of the stone-throwing activist is 13. The older youths are either jailed or directing events, having given up the stone for the gun.

Inside the U.N. clinic Dr. Salim Romodan updates his medical records. He marks a spot on the drawing of a body, describes the injury, and ticks either LA (live ammunition) or PB (plastic bullet). On Jan. 16, when tl-year-old Shirreen Hussein was killed outside the clinic on her way to school, he marked a spot on the abdomen and ticked LA. This time he ticks LA but marks a spot on the leg. The 15-year-old boy shot this time was lucky.

7*25

Outside, pockets of children are still shouting taunts at the soldiers in Hehrew, getting closer to the wire. "Chicken, chicken. Drop your gun and fight me." The maternity clinic is getting under way - The Indepen-

Tough question for Clinton administration: Intervene abroad?

By David Briscoe The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The Clinton administration wants to focus on

Israeli soldiers.

driving back to the clinic.

tears streaming down faces, shirts pulled up over mouths. They swarm back into the camp, into

the tiny alleyways where the tear

gas will sting them less. The faces

are suddenly still, turned up to

the fading lights are they wait and listen. None here looks older than

14, and many seem as young as

four or five. The only sound now

is choking or vomiting, mostly from young women with babies who have also run to the alleys

from their homes nearer the gas.
In the last two months children

have been killed and injured in

domestic issues, but foreign conflicts keep intruding.
Advocates on all sides of foreign disputes, members of Congress and other experts are pushing and pulling the new administration to take a stand —

conflicts. During his first two weeks in office, President Clinton took no new foreign policy initiatives. He did not indicate whether he will commit U.S. troops or other resources to deal with crises inherited from President Bush in Haiti. Somalia, the Mideast, former

or avoid action - in various

Yugoslavia and elsewhere. His rejection of Haitian boat people, the slow withdrawal of troops in Somalia, the standoff in Iraq and his announced plan to dispatch Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Middle East all represent a cautious continuation of Bush policies.

Even his administration's tough questioning of a proposed peace plan for the Bosnian conflict in former Yugoslavia is being viewed by some as a reluctance to commit to any increased U.S. role abroad. Acceptance of the plan by diplomats Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen could lead to a commitment of U.S. troops to ensure that it works.

said he supported stronger action than Mr. Bush in the Yugoslav conflict. As president, Mr. Clinton has yet to commit to any course of action.

The latest issue of the prestigious journal Foreign Affairs includes articles debatiog when, where and why the United States should intervene in other nations' affairs. The question is no longer the

simple cold war issue of promoting democracy abroad against Soviet communism. Without the Soviet threat, the United States has to find a new set of criteria for intervention. "The United States will have to

sort out and select its political objectives and the means it employs to achieve them far better than it has," said former Defence Secretary James Schlesinger in one article. The post-cold war world "is

becoming more rather than less anarchic," says Mr. Schlesinger. "The United States is not called upon to, nor can it, cure all the world's misery," he says. Both Mr. Clinton and former President Bush have taken simi-

lar positions. But both also have left room for unilateral U.S. military action when necessary. Mr. Bush committed U.S. troops in Panama, Iraq and Somalia, and Mr. Clinton said in his inaugural address: "When our

As a candidate. Mr. Clinton the will and conscience of the international community is defied, we will act - with peaceful diplomacy whenever possible, with force when necessary."

Stephen John Stedman, assistant professor at Johns Hopkins University, says in another Foreign Affairs article that a "new interventionism" is emerging which seeks to end civil wars and stop government from abusing their peoples.

Mr. Stedman says Mr. Clinton is sympathetic with such goals but must be realistic, intervening only when it is in America's interest.

Intervention "applied according to the dictates of television, rather than the national interest of the United States" will likely lead to an era that is "more. confrontational, conflict-ridden and violent than the one that nreceded it." Mr. Stedman says in the article.

Much of the debale has focused on the degree to which the United States should participate in collective enforcement of interna-tional goals with the United Nations and other multilateral organisations.

Analysts at the conservative Heritage Foundation were critical of the Bush administration for imposing self-restrictions on its foreign involvement by following United Mations, North Atlantic Treaty Crganisation (PIATO) vital interests are challenged, or and Vorld Bank goals.

"The United States should use coalitions with a keener eye toward protecting and preserving U.S. interests," said Kim Holmes, a Heritage vice president and defence policy analyst.

He said the Clinton administration will face a number of temptations to get involved abroad. The Somalia intervention, he said, "has muddled the discussion of the relationship between force and interest," since the United States intervened to help feed Somalis rather than to protect clear U.S. interests.

A report by a high-level commission on U.S. foreign policy issued during the transition from Mr. Bush to Mr. Clinton concluded: "We will inevitably rely more and more on collective security to cope with new military challenges - or they will not be dealt with at all."

The commission, headed by Winston Lord, now Mr. Clinton's assistant secretary of state for Asia, noted that at times the collapse of elected governments may be inevitable and that international pressure may inflict unacceptable hardship on a people.

"But as a general rule," it concluded, "the United States should join other nations to impose punitive measures on countries whose democratic governments have been toppled by militany coups or suspended by the national leadership."

LETTERS

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To the Editor:

On Jan. 20, 1993, Bilt Clinton was inaugurated as the 42nd president of the United States of America. To many, the new administration is a breath of fresh air compared to the one led by former President George Bush. Or is it?

During the elections and throughout the campaign then Governor Clinton reiterated his position, time and again, that his foreign policy would be no different from the one of the Bush administration regarding the Middle East conflict, and the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The double standard the U.S. is using in regard to U.N.

Security Council resolutions targeted against Iraq and Israel is unprecedented. The U.S. is stalling any U.N. Security Council meetings to deal with the Palestinian deportees, alleging that more peaceful actions should get underway, before any sanctions are taken against Israel,

Security Council resolutions should be implemented with no double vision in mind. Is this what the so-called new world order former President Bush called for is all about? Enforcing U.N. resolutions on Iraq, and only Iraq, for something that has happened and is done with, and not enforcing them on a nation that commits atrocities on daily basis seems to be a trait of this new world order.

Israel should not think for one moment that its practices are accepted by the world body; it should realise that aggression will not go unpunished, regardless of who Israel is hiding behind. I think that the Arabs should use their powers on the right people to make them pressure Israel to enforce Resolution 799 and to. take all the deportees back.

> Samer Farraj, P.O. Box 5225,

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused



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House rejects

(Continued from page 1)

nd the history of the Hashemites. Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Hamnam Sa'id refused the argument that ordan has to comply with the resolu-ions of the Security Council because the Jews are refusing to implement

J.N. resolutions. J.N. resolutions."
Reminding deputies that violating nternational law is an act that prookes international punishment, Deouty Abdul Majid Shreideh noted the lack of such legislation in the Charter of the Arab League.

Mr. Shreideh pointed to Iraq's

ance with Security Council recompliance with Secondly Council re-colutions, and said that the proposed aw would harm national interests. (This proposed law) deals with

politics through slogans at the ex-pense of national interests." he said. Asserting that international law is the law of the United States and Israel. Deputy Hussein Mjalti said Jordan must respect what he called "a national charter" according to which, he said, aggression on one Arab state is an aggression on the whole Arab

Our frustration with Arab division and national regression should not lead lead us to hurt ourselves." Deputy and former Prime Minister Taher Al Masti told the House, recalling Jordan's support for Iraq and the heavy price be said the Kingdom paid

"Through the positions I held in the past, I know that what we did for Iraq far exceeds what has been made public," he said. "We tool: risks and probably schieved miracles in order to support Iraq. History will reveal this national Jordanian role in the future," said Mr. Masri, who opposed the proposed bill in his comments but did not vote against it when it was put

Mr. Masri said the timing of the proposal might give the impression that Jordan did not fulfil its national obligation towards Iraq. He urged

obligation lowards had, the bright obligation to deputies to drop the motion.

"There is no need for fear or attempts to intimidate." Deputy Salim Al Zoubi said, rejecting the argument that proposing the law might imply that Jordan did not support large.

Taking the floor after Mr. Masri, Mr. Zoubi said that the proposed law was an expression of a stand and a policy and that arguments that it would harm Jordan were groundless. Also with a narrow majority, the House Sunday turned down a proposal to draft a law making voting in pulliamentary elections mandatory

or all eligible citizens. Thirty-one out of 60 departies veted gainst the proposed bill, which was presented to the House by 19 de-

Arguing against the proposal, Deputy Ali Al Fagir said it was unconstiimional to force citizens to cast their the said it was people's right and not duty to vote, adding that the proposed law would amount to an

encroachment on personal freedoms. Other deputies who opposed the motion cited difficulties in implemeading proposed law as a reason for rejecting it. Instead of forcing people to vote, elforts smouth of centifico on educating them on the need to excer-

cise their constitutional right to vote, they said.

Advocates of the law argued that the Constitution names the people as the source of authority and they must therefore east their votes in order to ensure that the views of the majority are considered.

"How could we ensure that (Parliament) represents the people if only 30 per cent of eligible voters cast their votes," said Mr. Mjali.

Islamist deputies were particularly opposed to the motion on the grounds that a mandatory voting law was impossible to implement and would infringe on personal freedoms. These deputies enjoy high turnout in their constituencies and many observers say a higher turnoul of voters would reduce the number of seats the Isla-mic movement has in the House.

According to one deputy, a recent study has shown that if voter turnout "is nine per cent higher than" that of the 1989 elections there will be a 50 per cent change in the composition of the House. The study, said the deputy, did not specify which political trends will benefit or lose from the projected change. No further in-formation on the study or who conducted it was available.

Expressing support for the nearly 400 Palestinians expelled to South Lebanon by the Israeli government in December, the foreign affairs and Palestine and occupied Arab territories committee of the House Sunday proposed that the House initiate joint Arab parliamentary action to emphasise the need for implementing Re-

The House adopted the commitlec's recommedation.

The committees also proposed that the House form a delegation to seek the formation of an Arab parliamentary group that would visit the Euro-pean Parliament and other internaarge the implementation of Resolu-

The House also endorsed a general pardon issued by King Hussein in November as presented by govern-ment despite arguments that the draft law was unconstitutional.

Mr. Mjalli said it was unconstitutional to issue tempoury general par-don laws when the House was not sitting because the penalty code says "the House is the constitutional authority to initiate such legislations."
"The draft law is null and void and

that should be made public," Mr. Mjalli said, adding that only private pardons can be issued if the House is not in session. He said issuing a temporary general pardon law gives the people affected by it acquired rights that cannot be later revoked, thus "confiscating" the right of the House to reject the law.

Mr. Fagir rejected the argument saying that the House could still amend the draft law after it was issued. He said the emergency situa-tion that the Constitution says gives the King the right to issue a tempor-ary draft law on general pardon was present in the country when the pardon was issued.

The House, which will hold its next meeting Wednesday, also agreed to raise to 18 the membership of a committee formed by the House last week to investigate alleged nepotism and favouritism in civil service

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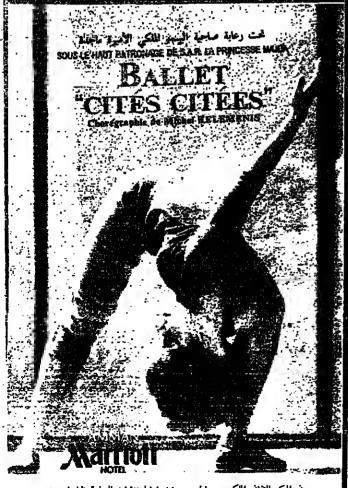
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Israel says expulsion policy remains

(Continued from page 1)

erate than Mr. Rabin. "Israel that Middle East peace talks conaccepted it. Now we have to let the United States implement it." wene in April as hoped. "What am I, a hawker Mr. Peres said he saw no need

"What am I, a hawker of com promises," said an agitated

for fresh "concessions" to ensure Peres, who leaves on Wednesday

for talks with Clinton administra-tion officials in Washington. The United States tool: it upon itself to overcome this mat-

ter with the proposal it suggested and Israel accepted this proposhe said.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who plans a leliddle cabinet meeting there was no east four this mouth, had been change in the U.S.-brokered

auxious for a compromise that would define the evicted crisis and allow fresh Middle East

Cabinet Secretary Elyakim Pubenstein, who leads Israeli negotiations with the Palestinians at the peace talks, wild after the

agreement The evictees have vowed not to leave their caop until all are

allowed to return. Palestinians attending the peace talks have corphasised that they want to continue, but they say popular pressure in the occu-pied West Bank and Gaza Strip makes that impossible before the

return of all evictees. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has reiterated his rejection of the U.S. brokered deal.

He also said remarks by Mr. Rabin threatening to expet houdreds more Palestinians did not encourage a commoning sentement to the dispute.

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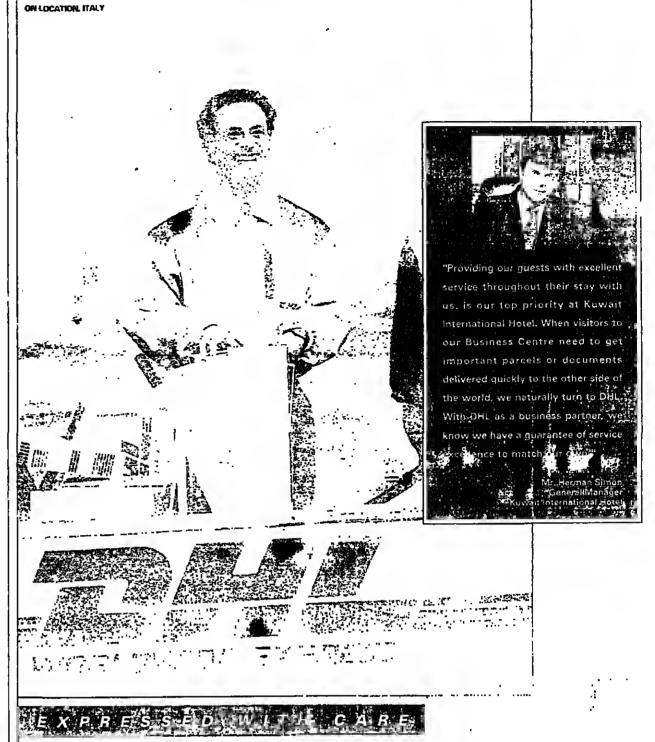
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Navratilova clinches record 162nd career singles title

Martina Navratilova clinched n record 162nd career singles title by sweeping aside unseeded Lar-isa Savchenko-Neiland 6-2 6-2 in the final of the Toray Pan Pacific Open indoor tennis tournament

For good measure, the American then went back on the court with Helena Sukova to win the doubles final, heating the fourthseeded Lori McNeil and Rennae Stubbs 6-4 6-3.

Navratilova, appearing in her first tournament since losing to Monica Seles in the final of the Virginia Slims contest in New York last November, was in devastating form from the outset with her consistently powerful serve and hrilliant cross-court backhands.

"I haven't won here for a while. I lost in the final the last two years (to Gabriela Sabatini). so I'm just happy to win." said the 36-year-old Navratilova, a winner here in 1989. "It's nice to finally win and to beat Steffi (Graf) in the process. That makes

it really special," she added. New National New York her opponent's serve in the sixth and eighth games of the first set. but failed to hold her first service game in the second set.

However, she soon unleashed a string of accurate and heavy first serves to hold her own serve and went on to break the Latvian in the fourth, sixth and eighth - games, wrapping up the match in · 56 minutes.

... Navratilova, who ousted number one seed Graf in Saturday's closely-contested semifinal, con-



Martina Navratilova holds up the winner's trophy after winning the Toray Pan Pacific Open (AFP photo)

tinued ber indomitable storming. of the net, leaving a somewhat hemused Savchenko-Neiland

powerless to pass her. "I pulled a muscle in my left leg when warming up this morning. so found it difficult to play the volleys," the Latvian said.

The heavy-serving Savchenko-Neiland, ranked 74th in the world, rarely managed to get in her first serve and made numerous double faults.

'She has the hardest second serve in women's tennis, so I guess she figured she just had to go for broke," said Navratilova, who now leads Savchenko-Neiland 8-I in their head-to-head matches.

Navratilova's spectacular win comes amidst talk of her possible retirement from the game this was even born.

"I'm not retiring completely from the game. It's not as if I'm going to go out and start collecting

social security," the veteran said. "It's just that when I beat Seles or Graf in a final, I say I'm going to continue. But then the next week I lose in the second round of a tournament, and 1 think I'm

definitely going to retire."
With this victory she jumps up two places to number three in the WTA computer world rankings, nudging down Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Sabatini.

Navratilova, playing in her 21st year of competition tennis and 19th as a prefessional, won her first tournament 20 years ago in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, before world number one Monica Seles

Iran moves to 2nd round after 5-0 win over Jordan

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Iran Sunday completed a convincing 5-0 victory over Jordan in the Davis Cnp Asia/Oceania Zone Group 2 first round tie when they won the reverse singles and qualified to the second round in which they will face China.

It was again game, set and match for Iran as Mustafa Saleh overcame Imad Abu Hamda 6-4, 6-2 while earlier his young teammate Mohammad Reza Tavakolli won his match against Hani Al Ali when Jordan's No. I had to poll out of the match because of an aggravated cramp which had caused his loss in the singles match Friday. Tavakolli had won the first set 6-3 and was leading 3-0 in the second set when the match was halted.

Jordan will now have to beat Malaysia in the play-off in April to secure their place in Group 2. The Iranian team's arrival statement certainly came true.

'We are well-prepared. We came to win," team administrator Abbas Golshani had told the Iordan Times The Iranian team's prepared-

ness contrasted with the snags the Jordanian team faced during the three-day competition.

Jordan's Ali lost his singles

match Friday after he was leading 7-6, 6-I. Iran's Mustafa Saleh then won the next three sets 6-2. 6-2, 6-I with Ali limping because of a cramp throughout the final three sets.

Because of Ali'a condition the doubles match he was supposed to play with partner Abu Hamda was altered to include Faris Al Azzouni and Abu Ham da. Later

match to Iran's Mansour Bahrami future." and Mohammad Khodai.

In the final singles match Sunday, attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Iran's Saleh sealed his country's win with the two-set match as everything seemed to be going wrong for Jordan's secondranked Abu Hamda, who had played well despite losing to Iran's semi-professional Mansour Bahrami 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 in the opening match Friday.

Saleh made Ahu Hamda run throughout the court and broke his opponent's serve in the third me while holding his to lead

Abu Hamda had two aces in the seventh game hnt his powerful serves did not help as he rushed the net and committed a series of unusual mistakes. He thus lost his serve and Saleh established a commanding 5-2 lead.

Abu Hamda then won the fol-lowing game as Saleh double-faulted and was thrice held at deuce. Abu Hamda also won the minth game, but eventually lost the first set 6-4.

Abu Hamda could only win the third and fifth games of the second set which Iran's Saleh won 6-2 with precision shots and concentration

"Imad was not playing his usual game today. I am surprised at the way he played," Jordan's head coach told the Jordan Times. " Had he played the way he did against Bahrami Friday the result would have been very different, The Iranian player played very well though," he added, Iran's Saleh commented: "I did

not play very well Friday. Today I had nothing to lose, because we had already secured the win." He added: "I think the Jordanian on Laith and Faris Al Azzouni team could have played better. chance played the doubles and were no They must play better in the again,"

Jordan's Abu Hamda said he felt bad he lost as he wanted to secure one win for Jordan. "Once I was behind in the first set I felt it hard to get the proper rhythm. I felt confused. It's a shame because I felt I could beat this opponent. I guess it was an unlucky

day," he said.
The Kingdom's top-ranked Ali said his doctor had advised him not to play after Friday. "He left it up to me. Unfortunately, I could not move properly. My leg was sore ever since it cramped in Friday's singles. I gneas I shouldn't have continued the match in that situation," he said.

Iran's team administrator said his team had looked forward to a closer tie. "Unfortunately there were some shortcomings for the Jordanian team due to lack of proper preparation and training. Maybe the whole team did not have enough time to have a systematic training," be com-mented. "In today's tennis you cannot hope to score good results without proper and sufficient training. It is also important to have at least ten good players of the same level to substitute for

one another."
Mr. Golshani added "this is a team event. You have to have a good team and nor one or two good players."

The Iranian team's administrator thanked the Jordan Tennis Federation and their efforts and arrangements to make the tie a successful one. "We look forward to our upcoming tie against China, and we wish the Jordanian team the best of luck against Malaysia. We hope Jordan will win and stay in the second group and hopefully we will have the chance to play against each other

HOROSCOPE

PORECAST FOR MONDAY FEBRUARY 8, 1993 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Projects requiring special attention where intricate or detailed work is concerned are facilitated by friendly aspects to a Virgo moon today. That special tool or appliance can show up today.

ARIES: (March 2I to April 19) Until soon complete whatever of a worldly nature that has been on your mind and then you will find it is advisable to tackle long time

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be alert to some improvements in your methods of operation after which you find it necessary to use tact and diplomacy with a closed minded person.

GEMINI: (May 2t to June 21) Get into what attachment desires of you and quickly do it during the rning while later steer clear of tasks that are tiresome and boring. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 2t) A hardheaded busin person can be best for you in solving all problems early in the day and tonight sidestep some ex-travagant pleasure.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Much of value follows quick action on your part in tackling your various routine activities while later sides-

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Make whatever appointments and engagements you wish in the morning for your future entertain-ments while later communication can be upsetting to you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Money and other practical mat-ters should work out very well for you in the morning, but tonight be. careful not to commit yourself to

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Handling all communica-tions can be expeditiously done early in the day while later you find you are thwarted in gaining a personal

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your morning can be well spent in doing whatever will improve your practical affairs while later a secret worry can keep you from constructive activities.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are able to do what you want to bring to yourself the aims which mean most to you personally early; later avoid a time consuming acquaintance.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February t9) Private discussions with those in the know show you n better pathway for the future while tonight avoid a demanding person

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A purposeful longtime suppor-ter can give you the right means by which to gain longings so listen carefully, follow; later avoid a



It really loosened me up."

Tennis great Arthur Ashe dies from AIDS

NEW YORK (R) — Tennis great Arthur Ashe, the first black to win the Wimhledon men's title, died Saturday of pneumonia resulting from AIDS. He was 49. Although he had publicly admitted he had the incurable

disease 10 months ago, his death : nevertheless shocked the sports ... Stunned players, fans and

politicians alike paid tribute to his achievements on and off the 'Simply put, words cannot suffice to capture a career as glo-

rious, a life as fully lived, or a commitment to justice as firm and as fair as was his," said New York Mayor David Dinkins, ... Ashe's long-time friend.
... Martina Navratilova, who

.. heard of Ashe's death just before winning the final of the Toray Pan-Pacific Open tennis tournament in Yokohama, Japan, called him a man who helped change the

"I found it difficult to keep my mind on the motch at first," a sad -Navratilova told a news conference after trouncing Larisa Savchenko-Neiland 6-2 6-2 "It just made me realise how

important life is and how unimportant a tennis match is. "He was an extraordinary human heing who transcended his sport, his race, religion and nationality and in his own way

helped to change the world." When news of Ashe's death was announced before the start of Saturday night's heavyweight title fight at Madison Square Garden between champion Riddick Bowe and Michael Dokes, spectators stend in silence to pay homage. -Ashe admitted at a news conference in April 1992 that rumours that he had AIDS were

Ashe said he got AIDS through blood transfusions but had kept it a secret since 1988 because he thought the stigma that AIDS patients endure would subject his daughter Camera to taunts. Former tennis star Billie Jean

women's rights, remembered Ashe as a crusader and pioneer for the rights of blacks and AIDS awareness "Arthur always said that it was

King, a strong campaigner for

tougher being a black man than having AIDS," said King, holder of 20 Wimbledon titles. A heart attack forced Ashe to retire from competitive tennis in

1979, and be was infected with the AIDS virus from tainted blood he received as he recovered from heart surgery, most likely after his second operation in 1983. A modest and quiet man, Ashe

spent a lifetime defying colour barriers and beating huge odds from his youth in segregated Virginia to Wimhledon, where in 1975 he upset Jimmy Connors. eight years his junior, to become the first black to win the men's

"He was out doing things, making his point and taking care of husiness right up until the end. and I guess that sums up every-thing that he stood for. No marter what the problem or challenge was, he always went out and made sure he got his point across. 'said Connors.

Ashe was admitted to New York hospital Friday afternoon. No other details were immediately available and a statement from the family was expected later.

Arthur Ashe holding his daugh-

After his first heart operation in 1979, Ashe was named Davis Cup captain and steered the team to victories in the 1981 and 1982

Ashe scored his first major riumph in 1968, winning the U.S. Open. He won the Australian Open in 1970 and was runner-up at the 1971 Australian and 1972 U.S. Opens.

He said the happiest moment of his life was not winning Wimbledon, but when anti-apartheid political prisoner Nelson Mandea was freed from a South African



ter Camera, in 1987

jail in 1990.

Jordan basketball title matches postponed again... Tuesday match scheduled by the JBF would be postponed until a fact-finding committee re-

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN .- Determining the 1992 first division basketball championship titleholder will require some patience from the teams and basketball fans and will indefinitly put on bold all future activities scheduled by the Jordan Baskethali Federation (JBF).

The reason for this is vet another postponement of the much-awaited new round of the Ahli-Orthodoxi clash, the first match of which was scheduled for Tuesday Feb. 9 after the JBF Thursday annonneed a titleholder-deciding hest-of-3 round in a bid to resolve the controversy which hit the first

division championship. The latest postponement was announced Sunday after the secretary-general of the Ministry of Youth, Eid Al Fayez, met the JBF board to discuss the appeal presented by Al Ahli regarding their disputed second match against Al Orthodoxi.

The ministry's spokesman Waquas Al Tal told the press that the match and hence the 1992 title.

investigates the disputed match. citing Article 68 of the Internaand presents its recommenda- tional Basketball Federation tions to the JBF.

Al Ahli had won the final Dec. 30. The dispute concerns round on Jan. 26 which Al Orthodoxi won 84-81 in overtime.

Al Ahli presented a written objection to the JBF after the second match citing "ohvious mismanagement of the match by the referees." Al Ahli based their objection on the fact that two extra points were awarded to Al Orthodoxi, which the court referee ruled out but were wrongly put on the scoresheet. According to Al Ahli, their players and officials approached the scoresheet referee to correct the mistake hut were disregarded and

told to "get on with the match."
Al Ahli stresses that the elimination of the two points at the moment of the mistake would have given them 75-73 win at the end of the second half of the

on the part of the referees but held on to the result of the match rules which stipulate that a team cannot object to mistakes after match of the first round 68-65 on the match. The JBF based their decision on a recommendation by the final match of the second its Referees Committee which round on Jan. 26 which Al Ortho-said that Al Ahli had not formally protested the two points during the match.

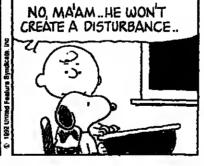
> The JBF's objection of Al Ahli's protest and its acceptance of Al Orthodoxi as the winner of the disputed match warranted a third match as both teams tied with 27 points in the overall standings. Al Ahli however refused to play a deciding match and appealed to the Ministry of Youth. The JBF then announced the first postponement of the match on Jan. 29 and later announced a new ruling of the best-of-3 round.

> All must now await the factfinding committee's recommendations to the JBF and hope the controversy ends as soon as

JUMBILE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD CAME four ordinary words. WYDON KOSTE TIMLEG HOW THE PAWN -BROKER FELTALL BY HIMSELF. **GANTEM** Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as sug-gested by the above cartoon. Jumbles: FANCY PRUNE ATTACH HELIUM What the fashion plate had when he got his tallor's bit—A REAL FIT

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Opening lead: King of ♦
The bridge club had proclaimed it The Year of the Bad Break. To Trump Coup Tommy, it was para-dise. As declarers around him were falling like flies, Tommy was bringing home impossible contract after impossible contract. As our readers know, Tommy starred only when trumps broke badly. On normal bands he would find more ways to go down than any five other mem-bers of the club.

We really can't fault Tommy's bidding on this hand, although he might have tried a takeout double at his second turn just in case partner wanted to convert to penalties. However, the final contract was

West led the king of diamonds, ruffed in the closed hand. When on a low trump lead West produced the ten, Tammy's posture cozed confidence. The queen of hearts lost to the ace and back came the queen of diamonds. Instead of ruffing, Tommy discarded the two of spades!

The next diamond was ruffed, the ace and king of chibs were cashed and a club was ruffed on the board A trump was led from the table and Tommy confidently finessed the ine. Then came the king of hearts, leaving East with the only trump in

Now Tommy led a good club, and the beauty of not ruffing the second diamond became obvious. After ruffing East, exhausted of dismonds, had to concede defeat. His farced spade return provided Tom-my with the entry to cash the last club, so declarer sailed bome with two spades, four trumps, three clubs and a club ruff.

Andy Capp







Mutt'n'Jeff





DOWN
1 Precipitou
2 Basil-base
sauce
3 Composer
Bruckner

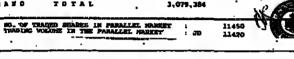
33 Extinct bird 34 Margarine 36 Espled

55 Scat lady 56 Anjou, for one 58 Let up 61 Turkish title 51 Run of 52 in the future 53 Curl the lip

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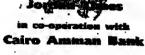
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Foreign Exchange Market Summary (February 1 — February 5, 1993)

AMMAN - Market onus shifted decisively in favour of the U.S. unit during last week as the dollar railied throughout. ending the week three per cent higher against the mark, 2.9 per cent higher against sterling, but little changed against the yea.

While the much-awaited for interest rate cuts in Germany on Thursday, had a significant impact, the dollar was also bouyd by increasing evidence of U.S. economic improvement, which contrasted with the signs of faltering economic performance in

After rebounding to 1,6113 marks at the end of the previous week; the dollar jumped again Monday closing in New York at 1:6350 marks. It then maintained an impressive up-trend during the next two days, breaching further technical levels.

Reports said that the announcement of a devaluation in the Irish punt within the ERM, during the previous weekend, market concerns over the European Monetary System. But unlike previous time, the dollar was the main beneficiary, rather than the mark, as market seniment had turned in favour of the U.S. currency.

dollar after it successfully breached the significant 1.60 mark barrier at the end of the previous week. But even more important, a string of U.S. economic reports were released with results far better than market expectations, which confirmed that the pace of economic recovery in the U.S. was picking up faster than had previously been expected, thus illuminating any remaining possibility of an interest rate cut by the Fed. In contrast, German economic statistics indicated that the

German economy was plunging into a recession. The Bundesbank surprised most market participants per cent Thursday by announcing a cut in the German discount rate by 0.25 per cent to eight per cent, and a 0.50 per cent cut in the, internationally important. Lombard rate to nine per cent.

Reserve requirements were also eased. . Analysts commented that the German central bank must have been pressured to take this step, finally, despite high inflation, because of concern over mounting fears that the ERM might be on the verge of falling apart, particularly after the plunge in the Danish krone against the mark on Wednesday, as well as

concern over German economic performance. The dollar thus railied Thursday, and again Friday helped by the release of another positive U.S. employment report for

Саттелсу	29/1/93 Clase	5/2/93 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.4870	1.4445	(2.86)\$
Deutsche Mark.	1.6113	1.6603	12.951%
Swiss Franc	1.4480	1.5325	[2.90]
French Franc	5.4545	5.6125	12.871%
Japanese Yen	124.65	124.40	. 0.20 %
USD Per STG			•

	Date: //2/43		
Согтепсу	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940	
Sterling Pound	0.9997	1.0047	
Deutsche Mark	0.4168	0.4189	
Swiss Franc	0.4512	0.4535	
French Franc	0_1232	0.1238	
Japanese Yen*	0.5555	0.5583	
Dutch Guilder .	0.3732	0.3721	
Swedish Krona	0.0928	0.0933	
Italian Lira*	0.0451	0.0453	
Belgian Franc	0.02020	0.02030	
Per 100		•	

Finnish economic contraction exceeds depression of 1930s

HELSINKI (R) — Finland's economy, hurt by the breakup of the former Soviet Union, has shrunk more in the last two years than it did during the Great Depression of the 1930s, officials have said.

Official preliminary figures showed gross domestic product (GDP) fell 3.5 per cent in 1992 after tumbling 6.4 per cent in 1991, the Central Statistical Office said.

Economists say the collapse of trade with the former Soviet Union, the bursting of a 1980s boom and oversupply in the world forestry industry all contributed to the shrinking of Finland's eco-

Heikki Salmi, acting chief of the statistical office, said the 10 per contraction in the past two years was an even worse performance than during the Great Depression when the GDP decline over the three years 1930-32 was slightly less than five per cent.

"Estimated only in the cold light of statistical figures, the economy's recession seems to be even deeper and longer than the recession of the 1930s," he said in a prepared speech. Looking to 1993, Mr. Salmi

said: "A negative GDP development for the third year in a row is probably not ruled out." In 1992 Finland suffered a six per cent drop in domestic de-

off by four per cent. On the production side only

exports and Finland's important forest sector showed any growth," the statistical office said in a statement Falls were heaviest in finance,

construction, agriculture, sales, catering and botel services. National income contracted by 4.5 per cent nominally, while total wages fell six per cent owing to high unemployment.

Mr. Salmi said Fmland, which last week began talks on joining the European Community with target entry date 1995, was now at an economic watershed. 'This year's economic develop-

ment is clearly at a divide " he told a news conference. The official said there were some positive signals in the economy which could lead to im-

provements in employment, in-

vestment and consumption. Among these positive factors, Mr. Salmi pointed to the fall in price and cost levels, improved corporate cost efficiency, significant gains in the competitiveness of domestic production and the economy's better external ba-

But among negative indicators, he saw high indebtedness of the public, corporate and private household sectors, weak domestic demand, the narrow structure mand as investment fell 15 per of the export industry and bigh cent and consumer spending was enemployment.

Sublime from Jean Patou

Intuitively capturing the essence and spirit of the times in his own inimitable fashion, Jean Patou introduces something more than a new perfume - it's a whole new way of saying "woman", In a world, SUBLIME.

A maestro of fragrance, Jean Patou presents an offering - a gift to discover and to love... SUBLIME. A women, a perfume, the spirit of today and the spirit of tomorrow.

ing Agency Sunday held a press conference during which Mr. Raed Abu Shakrah, the agency's managing director, introduced a new scent: Sublime from Jean

Jean Patou's regional export Area Manager Thierry Camus addressed the conference beld at the Amman Marriott Hotel, ontlining Jean Patou's development and its various products since 1919 until the present time.

Sublime The genesis of an extraordinary concept

In the beginning was the idea. An idea for a fragrance immaterial and intangible. An abstracblossoming in the mind of Jean

Sublime.,, the fragrance

Expression had to be given to the soul of this woman: An accord faithful to the spirit of the fragrances ereated by Jean Patou. An exacting task for Jean Kerléo, perfume creator for the House of Jean Patou. .

Jean Kerléo combined unique proportions of the most exquisite flowers, precious woods and nature's noblest raw materials. A secret composition given to Jean Patou, transforming bis glass.

AMMAN - Abu Shakrah Trad- inspired idea into a semi-amber.

floral fragrance. Sublime... the secrets notes

In structuring the radiant heart of the fragrance - its accord, its personality - Jean Kerléo used flowers exclusively. Rose, jasmine, lily of the valley and orange blossom compose a rare symphony intensified with warm, deep and muted notes of vetiver, sandalwood and oak-

He made the heart seductive and captivating, with the addition of light, sparkling notes the fresh scents of orange, mandarin and ylang ylang from the Comoro Islands. He achieved a fragrance of magical substance. woman called Sublime.

Sublime... the bottle

Clear, generously curved, rounded forms - like a perfect fruit, like a perfect flower closely fitting the band of the woman who inspired it. A gold stopper, like a bud just begin ning to open, a bud expressing the promise of eternal flowering and a multi-faceted paradise Sublime de Jean Patou engraved in gold letters counterpoints the rich amber colour of the perfume and the transparence of the

Egypt offers stock market shares in state-owned firm

CAIRO (R) - Egypt is floating shares in a state-owned firm on the stock market as part of longawaited moves to whittle down public ownership and control of the economy, officials said Sun-

Taher Bishr Moustafa, chairman of the State Holding Company for Chemical Industries. said the Misr Chemicals Company would raise 50 million Egyptian pounds (£15 million) by offering five million new shares on the stock market later this week.

The offer, the first of its kind in Egypt, is part of long-awaited restructuring of Egypt's nearly 300 public sector firms leading to privatisation of many of them.

Egypt's state-owned Banque Misr will underwrite the issue and

offer loans to potential shareholders, including the firm's 4,000 employees, Banque Misr Chairman Mohammad Ali Hafez said.

"We will continue an advertising campaign in the newspapers and expect the sale to start by the end of this week," Mr. Moustafa said, adding that the last obstacle was removed when Egypt's Capital Markets Authority approved the offer a week ago. He said the sale would last about two weeks.

Egypt, under pressure from Western donors to speed np public sector reforms, has said in the last two months it will sell off minority government stakes in joint ventures. It will also prepare about 25 firms for privatisation

without actually selling them. But donors, and the Interna-

tional Monetary Fund and World Bank who negotiated the reform package, are unhappy at what they see as fringe tinkering and unnecessary delays.

A senior official said the reshuffling of a system of holding companies Egypt set up to oversee the reforms went back to the drawing board last week after the World Bank expressed reservations over a first set of proposals.

Misr Chemicals Company recorded sales of about 150 million pounds with profits of about 31 million pounds.

The Alexandria factory mainly manufactures caustic soda and sodium carbonates for local markets from sairs collected from nearby lakes.

Germany has contributed nearly \$100 million in grants and concessional finance to help the

firm clean dangerous mercury deposits off factory equipment and switch to modern methods of

producing chemicals, he said.

Mr. Hafez said the shares would be issued at a nominal price of four pounds with a six pound premium. Existing capital stood at 41 million pounds issued in 10.4 million shares but the current market value of existing shares was about 17 pounds, he

Mr. Moustafa said that to smooth the way to further reforms he had asked central government to hand over the shares of 27 affiliates to the chemical holding company which acts as their shareholder.

He said the company planned to sell off all four minority stakes it held in joint ventures in the

sion, protecting the reputation of

the local market and protecting

the consumer, and the most im-

portant part is curbing, any

cause we have a free market and

we leave space for market.com-

petition, and because of this com-

petition the prices don't go up

very high and we have some of

the cheapest prices in the world,

Mr. Bisang expects the local

gold trade to hit a record high this

year with an increase of 60 per

cent in the volume of imports and

billion were shipped to Dubai

between January and September

1992, more than double the

amount in the same period the

There are 184 licensed workshops and 359 jewellery shops in Dubai and traders expect the

Traders said 210 tonnes of gold

"We don't monitor pricing be-

fraud," he pointed out.

Gold trade glitters in Dubai

DUBAI (R) — A bank wants two tonnes of gold. It arrives the same day in a truck without protection.

Traders say Dubai is one of the few places in the world where this can happen.

The bustling Gulf emirate is quickly becoming one of the top world centres for gold trading and it is now ranked fifth. The lack of customs duties and

a free trade policy make it an attractive market for bullion trading and the import, export and

re-export of gold jewellery.
"Dubai is very liberal there is
no tax on gold bullion, cost of labour is very low, insurance cost is minimal and income tax is a joke compared to Enrope," said Andre Bisang, regional director of the Geneva-based World Gold Council.

There is an important stock of gold.... if one bank needs one and a half tonnes of gold by tomorrow morning it will get it tomorrow morning, this is amaz-

ing," be said.
"Also, this place is so safe that tonnes of gold are transported in trucks without any protection," he added. Not just gold bullion makes

Dubai attractive to traders. Its gold market is a clear sign of a thriving trade,

Dozens of shops, their windows glittering with bracelets, dows glittering with bracelets, lt is at the gold market that a necklaces and rings, line the sides lot of the trade takes place, but it

of the souk. Some shops even offer gold telephones, toys and

At any time of the day or evening the pedestrian street is packed with people. Tourists' murmurs of "look at that" and "this is amazing" mingle with Arabic and Indian music from the

Shop doors in the gold souk stay open throughout the day with no security cameras or electronic locks.

Some of the jewellery is designed and manufactured locally and the rest is imported from India, Bahrain, Syria, Turkey and Italy, which traders sav means all tastes are catered for.

The bulk of the gold bullion is imported from Switzerland and

Jewellery is sold by weight with a very small mark-up for design and manufacture. With a little bargaining, the

price of a ring manufactured locally to a Cartier design went down in one shop from \$125 to \$75, which traders say is one third the price of such a ring in any Western city.

According to official figures, one gramme of gold (0,035 ounces) sells for around 42 dirhams (\$11).

about the gold smuggled from the Gulf into India and rest of the

subcontinent. "I can say the Indians are the best customers. We don't rely on selling a ring or necklace. We count on people who buy big amounts to take home," said one

trader who refused to be named. "You want to call it smuggling, that's your business. For us it is business. We sell to whoever wants to buy," he added.

Mr. Bisang said Indian expatri ates were still exporting gold from Dubai and other countries through profficial channels although the government in March allowed them to bring in

"When it leaves here it does so in a legal way, but getting it to India is another story. Some people hide it, others smuggle it through ports and through con-tacts that they established over

the years," another trader said. Abdullah Al Rifai, coordinator of the Dubai Municipality Central Laboratory, said the government monitored the quality of the gold which is always traded legal-

"The gold here is found in a free market. We don't keep tabs on who buys what or where they take it... what we have here is export and import," he said.
"Most of our work is supervi-

number to increase. The economic situation in the Gulf has recovered from the Gulf crisis, the expatriate community is back and with the low gold

previous year.

well," he said. "I think we will go into a time when more countries will open the door because they will realise that closing the door to gold is impossible," he said.

price the market is doing very

Report: China's economy underestimated

tics, according to a report, raising questions about how the world should view the country of 1.1

billion people. "The official data seriously underestimate China's GDP (gross; domestic product) by a factor of three," said the report, published by the East Asia Analytical Unit of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs .

and Trade. The study examined the kinds of foods people in China and the economically more advanced Chinese communities of Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan ate

Cinema

BELIING (R) - The size of at various stages of development. India. China's economy is grossly The anthors found this "cannot underestimated by official statisbe understood in context of established international and Chinese perceptions of China's living standards," said the report, made available by the Australian Embassy in Beijing.

"The evidence was overwhelming that China's per capita GDP... was substantially higher than reported in the standard statistical sources," it pointed.

Officially the size of China's economy is some \$370 per person, close to the bottom of the world list, far behind other Asian countries like the Philippines and Thailand and about the same as

Tel.: 677420

Australian ambassador to China Ross Garnaut and economist Ma Guonan, concentrated on China's grain production and consumption, analysts said it raised crucial questions about how the world should treat China.

"The implication of the report is that China is less deserving than other Third World countries for soft loans, concessional financing and the other kinds of 'casy way outs' that the Chinese government prefers to keep its economy booming," said a West-

em diplomat. "China's self image is very much as a developing country, part of the Third World, but if its economy is really as healthy as some think, it might not get much of the limited pool of aid funds

available," the diplomat added. While the study, by former The Economist magazine recently argued that no matter what the official statistics say, China is already the world's third or fourth largest economy.

If the Australian report is correct and the official figures are understated by a factor of three, then China has already reached senior leader Deng Xiaoping's goal of raising the per capita size of the economy to between \$800 and \$1,000 by the year 2000.

Most Chinese officials no longer quote the specific targets Deng set out when be began his economic reform programme in

the early 1980s. Now the official line is that China wants everyone to have "Xiaokang." a vague term meannig something like "little prosper-

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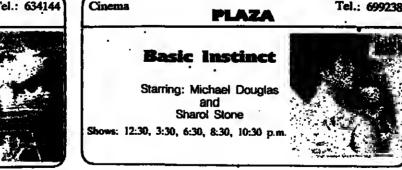
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COLUMN

U.K. reported

planning art sale

LONDON (R) - Britain's gov-

erument is considering selling off its multi-million pound art collec-

tion, the National Press Associa-tion reported. It quoted "well-

placed sources" as saying the

treasury was making inquiries ab-

out selling the collection, which

now adoms the walls of embas-

sies around the world, as well as

the offices of government minis-

ters. The collection includes

works by Gainsborough, Sickert,

Hockney and other celebrated

British artists. Opposition

Labour Party member of parliament Bob Cryer said he would fight the move. "This is selling off the family silver with a

vengeance," he said, adding that be would bring up the matter in parliament Monday.

vachtsman rounds

PARIS (R) — Leading solo

ronod-the-world yachtsman

Alain Gautier of France rounded

Cape Horn and set course for the

finishing point at Les Sables

d'Olonne on the west coast of

France. Organisers of the Vendee Globe Race said Gautier passed

Cape Horn in difficult conditions

with heavy seas amd winds of 35

knots (65 kph), gusting up to 80 kph. Only eight of the 14 starters who left Les Sables d'Olonne on

Nov. 22 are still left in the race.

The 30-year-old Gautier, who has

a lead of around 350 nautical

miles over Philippe Poupon of France, has another 7,000 miles

to go before the expected finish

Leading solo

Cape Horn

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Pash flood

:Clashes continue in Croatia; **Bosnia relief flights suspended**

BELGRADE (R) — Croatian and rebel Serb forces exchanged rocket and shell fire along the Adriatic coastal hinterland Sun-A day and fighting flared in several rareas of Bosnia as international t peace efforts faltered.

Sirens sounded the alert at t dawn in the ports of Zadar and Biograd, only a few kilometres § away from a new "blue line" war front established after Croatian forces launched their Jan. 22 offensive to regain areas of the (Serb-held Krajina enclave.

Relief flights from the Croatian capital of Zagreb to the Serbbesieged Bosnian capital of Sarajevo were suspended for at l least a day after a German plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire over northern Croatia Saturday and a crewman injured.

Foreign airlines also halted their flights to Zagreb Sunday for security reasons.
U.N. Secretary-General Bout-

ros Ghali condemned Saturday's attack on the relief plane, saying it "further jeopardised the inter-national community's efforts to bring an end to the conflict." Seventeen other UNHCR flights made the trip to and from Sarajevo without incident.

UNHCR officials in Sarajevo " said it was up to their head office in Geneva to decide when the flights would resume and whether they should be re-routed or based somewhere other than Zagreb. "It's quite clear this route is

risky," one official said. Rebel Serbs have rejected call for talks to end the Krajina fighting and said they will not talk peace until Croatian troops meet U.N. demands to withdraw from ... areas they have seized since Jan.

Resideots said the shelling around Zadar and Biograd died down during the day but few people were on the streets.

Croatian radio reported at least seven rocket attacks on Croatian villages inland from Zadar and said a Serb tank was destroyed by counter-fire. A heavy barrage was heard near Biograd as Croatian forces appeared to be firing at Serb-held areas with multiple rocket launchers.

The radio said Serb gunners shelled the Adriatic town of Sibenik Saturday for the first time in seven months, an ominous sign that fighting in Croatia could be spreading. No casualties were re-

The radio also reported steady Serb mortar and small arms fire in Krupalj, Pridraga, Islam Latinski and Dracevac.

In Bosnia, intensive fighting was reported along the eastern border with Serbia between progovernment Muslim forces and Bosnian Serb militias.

Rival Serbs and Muslims in Bosnia have rebuffed a peace plan by U.N. and European Community mediators which would divide the republic into 10

provinces, largely on ethnic lines. Radio stations said there had been infantry and tank clashes and heavy shelling in northern areas along a land corridor from Serbia which is the main supply route to Serb-held areas of Bos-

nia and Croatia. In central Bosnia-Herzegovina, skirmishes were reported be-tween once-allied Croatian and Muslim troops fighting for control of communally-mixed areas. Sarajevo, where 380,000 people have been trapped since the war began last April, was gener-

ally quiet except for some exchanges of cannon fire. In New York, international

mediators portrayed this weekend as the last chance for Bosnia's Serbs and Muslims to sign up to peace package before the U.N. Security Council is asked to impose a solution.

But Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said in Sarajevo that the plan legitimised the brutal practice of "ethnic cleansing" -violent and wholesale communal expulsion - hy rebel serbs.

The plan in its present form, we shall not sign. It must be corrected," be told reporters. Mediators Cyrus Vance and

Lord Owen have struggled since September to end the conflict among Bosnia's Serbs, Croats and Muslims which has killed more than 16,000 people and forced two million from their

The Serbs in Croatia rose up after the republic declared independence from Yugoslavia in June 1991. Most fighting stopped in January last year under a U.N.-mediated truce. Bosnia's minority Serbs revolted after the republic declared independence last March.

The Security Council, meeting in closed consultations Monday for the first time since Mr. Vance and Lord Owen transferred the peace talks from Geneva to New York, is nearly as divided as the Bosnians. No action is expected until after the United States reveals its full position.

We're going to try and put together a package. Sometime the middle of next week, look for something," U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin said en route to Munich where he went to meet

British, French and German military leaders on President Bill Clinton's initial proposals for ending the war.

Britain, France, Russia and China support the Vance-Owen peace plan but other Security Council states have reservations, including Islamic council members, Pakistan, Morocco and

In the weekend talks at the United Nations involving Bosnia's Muslims, Serbs and Croats, meeting separately with Mr. Vance and Lord Owen, no progress was discernible.

"The odds of (the talks) succeeding went down somewhat as a result of their discussions," said U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard. At the heart of the peace plan is a contentious map dividiog the country into 10 semi-autonomous

provinces - three dominated by

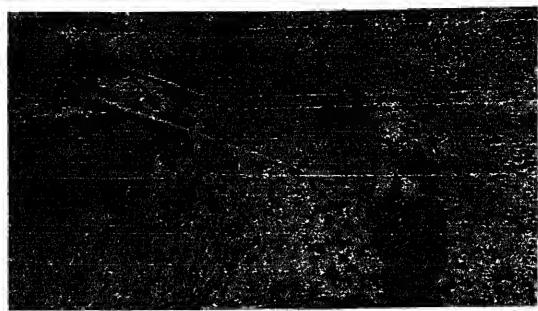
Serbs, three by Muslims, two by Croats and two expected to have tri-partite local government. Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic brought a new map into the meeting which would cut the country further along ethnic lines and give Serbs more land adjoining Serbia proper.

But the mediators apparently

dismissed his map on the spot with Mr. Eckhard calling it "strikingly different from the one that the co-chairmen have so painsta-

kingly (been) negotiating. Mr. Karadzie also revived proposals to change boundaries of provinces through a vote, which Lord Owen characterised as that "wretched business of a

"It's quite impossible to have a poll about a border in a country that has three million people on the move," he said.



A Serbian officer peers through binoculars to the Creatian positions in front of 122 mm gues near Teslingrad in the Serb-held enclave of Krajian. Croatian and Serb forces have been clashing in

southern Croatia since Croatia offensive against the self-declared Serbian republic on Jan. 22 (AFP photo)

NATO boss: West must be ready to use force in troubled areas

MUNICH (R) - North Atlantic Security Council session - to Treaty Organisation (NATO) Secretary General Manfred Woerner said Sunday the West must be ready to use force in troubled areas like Bosnia to stay credible, and warned allies not to cut defences too deeply.

Mr. Woerner was addressing a Munich meeting of senior West-ern defence officials dominated by a visit by new U.S. Secretary of Defence Les Aspin, who conferred with allied leaders on how to solve the conflict in former

The NATO chief said the United Nations was not able to handle everything by itself and that peacekeeping and aid must not be a substitute for curbing

He spoke as international mediators in New York pressured Bosnia's warring parties in vain at the weekend — on the eve of a

negotiate an end to Europe's most disastrous conflict since World War II.

"We must prevent Enrope from becoming a place where a few islands of stability are surnounded by a sea of instability, Mr. Woerner told the two-day privately-sponsored conference. NATO, founded to deter the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact, now had as its task to "shape peace," he

"We must not shrink from the legitimate use of force if we are to remain credible.

NATO, stepping out of its tra-ditional role as defender of West-ern Europe, has offered to enforce a no-fly zone in Bosnia announced by the U.N. Security Council last October.

Mr. Woerner said, however, he was concerned at the rate at which Western allies were cutting their defence forces now the cold

war was over, saying the force reductions could have a serious impact on NATO defence capa-

'In many cases peacekeepers must be drawn from our main defence forces," be said.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, addressing the meeting Saturday, made an impassioned plea for the Americans to keep a ubstantial military presence in Europe in their own interest. President Bill Clinton plans to

cut the U.S. military presence in Europe, which was more than 300,000 when the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, to 100,000 soldiers. 50,000 fewer than envisioned by former President George Bush. But Mr. Kohl said Germany, battling to finance the buildup of impoverished East Germany,

may cut its own armed forces to less than 370,000, the figure agreed upon in international talks at unification in 1990. Jesse Jackson tells Haitians: Hold on

towards the end of the month. Postal officia!: **Elvis just won't**

go away' SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) -This time it wasn't just a postage stamp, but the cancellation that got Elivs Presley fans all shook up. The main post office in Sacramento, trying to please fans hoping to get a "return to sen-der" marking next to the new 29-cent Elvis stamp, had rubber stamps made for a special day of cancellations. But while Elvis sang, "return to sender, address stamped, "returned to sender, address unknown." Customers crowding the post office didn't seem bothered by the difference. The cancellation was a lot closer than the machine-generated labels that 'usually appears on mail with incorrect addresses: undeliverable as addressed." "We haven't used that (returned to sender) stamp in years," Postai Service spokesman Gus Ruiz. That didn't stop thousands of fans from mailing letters to bogus addresses in hopes of getting the famed lyric next to an Elvis stamp. Joyce McClaio addressed envelopes to her own home with the address written incorrectly. But the post office fixed the address and delivered

British giri refuses 'hollday'

them anyway. On Friday, she got her "returned to sender" stamp. "It's such a hype. It's fun," she

rape compensation NEWPORT, Wales (R) - A storm of protest has erupted around a British judge who allowed a 15-year-old schoolboy who raped a classmate to walk free from court. Newspapers and television said the victim, also 15. refused to accept £500 (\$720) awarded by Judge John Prosser in compensation. A police chief cal-led for a review of the decision and women's groups joined the protests. Judge Prosser put the boy under a three-year supervi-sion order but ordered him to pay. the money to "give this girl the chance of a good holiday to belp her get over her trauma." He said jailing the youth, whom he de-scribed as "one of the most popular boys in school," could introduce him to more "bad habits." The chief constable of the Welsh County of Gwent, where the rape occurred, said he would form: challenge the decision with legal officials Monday. "I am also deeply concerned about the fact that the victim of crime is coming very much last. A very great deal-is spent on the rehabilitation of offenders and very little on the victims," John Over told BBC Radio. "Decent people are get-ting heartily sick of the fact that victims are coming last in the queue." Ruth Hall, spokeswoman for Women Against Rape, said: "We've often seen judges treat crimes of tape less seriously than crimes against property. Something has to be done on a broader scale about judges and the courts and the way they treat women."

Keating Australian

March 13 CANBERRA (R) — Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, ending months of speculation, Sunday called a general election for March 13 and both sides immediately picked the faltering

election for

calls

economy as their main battleg-Mr. Keating stunned reporters by announcing the date at a news conference expected to be de-voted to his Laboor Party's defeat in Western Australia state polls

Saturday. "This election will be principally about the economy and onem-ployment," be told them.

Some 11.3 per cent of the workforce is unemployed, one of the highest rates in the Western world. Australia's recession is the worst since the great depression

of the 1930s. Opinion polls show the Labour government, in power for a decade, and the opposition conservative Liberal-National Coalition neck-and-neck.

Opposition leader John Hewson said he could win the election because the Western Australian poll showed middle-class Australians descriing Labour. "The dominant issue was economic management and unemployment " he told reponers.

Mr. Keating, who ousted Labour Prime Minister Bob Hawke in December 1991, said that on Tuesday he would deliver "a major economic statement with new measures which will dramatically expand business opportunities and accelerate economic growth.

"This will be a statement about energising business and the economy and consolidating the

growth we have."
On Monday morning, he said, he would outline Australia's "enormous" trade opportunities in Asia and the government's strategy for taking advantage of

Mr. Keating has sought to refocus Australia on its role io Asia and favours moves to lessen traditional ties with Britain.

Mr. Hewson's alternative economic strategy is centred on a , alue-added tax on consumption. Although it would be offset by income tax cuts, this "goods and services tax" has become the main target of government counter-attacks.

The election will also be a personal hattle between Mr. Keating, who left school at 14 and is famous for his savage political invective, and Mr. Hewson, an aloof, former academic-economist with little political ex-

perience. During a parliamentary debate Mr. Keating once earned a re-buke from the speaker for calling his opponent among other things "a piece of criminal garbage" and

"a stupid foul-mouthed grub".

The prime minister said Sunday the Western Australian result had no impact on his decision to start his campaign now.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Abortion issues cause storm in Italy

ROME (R) — An outspoken call by a Roman Catholic archbishop for abortion to be outlawed in Italy has provoked a storm of criticism. "The state has only the duty to defend life in every case it does not have the right to allow life to be suppressed," Cardinal Giacomo Biffi, the Archbishop of Bologna, said in a service. "The respect for life has be total and coherent. How can we condemn organised crime and approve the killing in the maternal womh of an unborn baby?" Italian daily Corriere Della Sera quoted Cardinal Biffi as saying. The Corriere Della Sera criticised the cardinal's emotive language in a front-page editorial while politicians accused him of meddling. "Abortion will not be prevented by criminalising women or by limiting their liberty," said Livia Turco, national women's organiser for the ex-Communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS). "It is not the job of the religious authorities to inspect the laws of a sovereign state like Italy," the PDS deputy added. Abortion was legalised in Catholic Italy in 1978, a decision reinforced by a referendum in 1981.

Quake hits northwestern Japan

TOKYO (R) — An earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter Scale rocked northwestern Japan Sunday, but no damage or casualties were immediately reported. The quake, with its epicentre 30 kilometres under water in the Japan Sca near Wajima, happened at 10:22 p.m. (1322 GMT), the Meteorological Agency said. The agency issued a warning that there could be a tsunami, or tidal wave, as a result. The tremor lasted for about a minute, shaking buildings and disrupting rail traffic in coastal

6 killed in S. Africa shooting

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Gunmen attacked a squatter camp near Johannesburg Sunday, killing six people and wounding 11, police said. The African National Congress (ANC) said eight people were killed and 15 wounded when gammen with Kalash-nikov rifles attacked the Chris Hani Camp in the black township of Daveyton east of Johannesburg.

Poll shows Danish 'ves' to Maastricht

COPENHAGEN (R) - A clear majority of Danes are likely to vote 'yes' to the European Community Maastricht Treaty in their second referendum on the pact on May 18, according to an opinion poll. The polt by the Observa Institute, published in the national daily BT, showed 60 per cent would vote 'yes' while 27 per cent would vote 'no' and 13 per cent were undecided. Danes voted 'no' by a 50.7-49.3 per cent margin to the treaty on closer European political, economic and monetary union in the first referendum on June 2 last year. The result, blocking Europe-wide implementation of the pact, has caused one of the worst crises in Community history. The new vote witt be on a revised deal agreed with the EC at a summit in Edinburgh in December, allowing Danes to opt ont of the treaty's long-term plans for a common

Space mirror burns up in atmosphere

MOSCOW (R) - A Russian space ship that reflected a beam of sunlight over Europe at night last week, using a unique plastic mirror, hurnt up in the Earth's atmosphere on Sunday, ITAR-TASS News Agency said. The thin shaft of light, part of an experiment testing the feasibility of projects to extend daylight hours during the polar winters of northern territories, was seen in the skies over France Thursday. But it went unnoticed as it played across clouds covering southern Germany, Poland and Belarus. TASS said the unmanned Progress cargo ship, which unfurled a 20-metre (65-foot) wide plastic mirror to project the light, burnt up according to schedule as it hit the atmosphere.

Belgium drifts further apart

BRUSSELS (R) - Belgium's parliament has approved by just two votes a sweeping state reform which will lead the country into a new federal era, further separating Dutch-speaking Flanders and French-speaking Wallonia. The coalition government of Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene mustered 144 votes — only two more than the two-thirds majority of 142 required - to amend the first article of the Belgian constitution, Belga News Agency said. Thirty-six deputies voted against. The new deal grants more antonomy to Flanders in the north and Wallonia in the south. Mr. Dehaene says the new regional powers should provide more stable government and bring an end to squabbling between the two language groups. The central parliament will be significantly reduced in size, central parliament will be significantly reduced in size, passing more responsibilities such as foreign trade and agriculture to the regions.

Pope prays for Ugandan martyrs

NAMUGONGO, Uganda (R) -Pope Joho Paul prayed Sunday before symbols of 19th century teenage martyrs who were roasted slowly over a pit for refusing to submit to a Ugandan kine's homosexual demands.

Hundreds of thousands of people turned out to see the Pope celebrate mass on a tiny island in an artificial pond at the Sanctuary of the Martyrs just outside Kam

The mass procession on the fifth day of the Pope's African tour was led by Karamojong tribal dancers from northeast Uganda who wore goat skins and ostrici feathers.

The shrine was built on the grounds where, in the 1880s, the King Mwanga of Buganda ordered the execution of 45 boys who had converted to Catholicism or Anglicanism.

The Pope prayed before an Anglican Church reconstruction of a clay pit under a thatched brick but where 22 of the buys were roasted alive. The bodies of the martyrs were represented by statues bound in bamboo sticks. NEW YORK (AP) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson told 300 cheering Haitians demonstrating outside the United Nations Saturday to hold on ootil democracy is restored and exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide returns to pow-

Rev. Jackson spoke with his customary fire before an enthusiastic crowd that needed warming up after marching through a snowstorm and icy temperatures from City Hall, miles away in

downtown Manhattan. "We will keep the pressure on until democracy ! wed and Aristide is m ack-

son said. The Haitian, ... lags and holding up pictures of Mr. Aristide, cried, "no Aristide, no peace" and "// Cedras

Mr. Aristide became the first democratically elected president of Haiti just seven months before he was ousted in a September 1991 coup. Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras, Haiti's ranking mititary strongman, now rules the nation together with Prime Minister Marc Bazin.

In a meeting with Mr. Aristide Friday, Secretary of State Warren Christopher denounced the current leaders of Haiti as bolders of "illegal power" and promised, "they will not prevail." President Bill Clinton acknow-

ledged Friday that concerns about potential human rights abuses in the event of Mr. Aristide's return were legitimate. In re-marks to reporters, Mr. Clinton said democracy must be restored in a way that would preserve human rights during the transition.

Rev. Jackson also em the importance of a peaceful transition, calling for an end to "necklacing," a method of execu-tion that has been used in Haiti in which a tire is put around the

victim's body and set aflame. Mr. Bazin has rejected a U.N. plan to send about 500 civilian observers to Haiti as the first step in the return of democracy However, Friday he said his military-installed government supported the presence of observers and democratic reforms.

Mr. Aristide had been scheduled to join Rev. Jackson in a rally in Miami Sunday. But Lela MeDowell, his spokeswoman, said Saturday Mr. Aristide would not appear.

"He'll be releasing statements and communicating with the Haitian people through a variety of means," but will not make a public appearance, Ms. McDowell said in a telephone interview from Washington.

Rev. Jackson also planned to visit Haitian refugees beld by immigration authorities at Guantanamo Bay U.S. Military Base in Cuba.

Meanwhile, foreign diplomats see no more than a slender hope of reviving a U.N.-led diplomatic effort to resolve Haiti's 16month-old political crisis.

The army-backed de facto government of Mr. Bazin showed "extreme bad faith" in negotia-tions with United Nations special envoy Dante Caputo during a four-day visit that ended Thurs-

day, the diplomats said.
One diplomat took heart from a government statement Saturday claiming that "there was a certain narrowing of differences on several points" at the three meetings between Mr. Bazin and Mr.

Caputo.
They appear to be leaving the door ajar, but it remains to be seen if Caputo will believe their sincerity," the diplomat said.

Armenians win ground in new Karabakh offensive

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Armenian forces have launched a major new offensive in the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and captured at least two Azerbaijani-beld villages, reports from both sides said.

The Armenian News Agency, Snark, said Armenian fighters had won control of 11 settlements in the past two days including Childran, one of the largest in the north of the war-torn enclave. It said Azerbaijani forces were "retreating in panic.'

Azerbaijan's Turan News Agency said fierce fighting for strategic heights in the region raged overnight and Saturday morning. It acknowledged the loss of Childran and a second village, Syrkhavend.

More than 2.500 people have been killed in a five-year undeclared war between the two former Soviet republics.

It focuses on Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous area which is mostly populated by Armenians but was placed under Azerbaijan's jurisdiction by Soviet authorities in 1923. The conflict has drained the

Armenia, in particular, is suffering an acute energy crisis because of a blockade imposed by its neighbour. Military success in Nagorno-Karabakh could help to ease pressure on Armeman President

economies of both countries and

Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who faces growing demands to quit. At least 100,000 Armenians weary of unheated homes and power cuts, demonstrated for his resignation Friday.

villages in both Armenia and Azerbaijan had been shelled in the past 24 hours. The latest hostilities followed a Ahkhazian capital of Sukhumi.

Snark and Turan said border



Azeri soldiers prepare an attack on Armenian position near Novolva-novka village in Nagorno Karabakh. Despite winter conditions of cold and snow the war between Azerbaijanis and Armenians for the disputed Nagorno Karabakh region has not let up (AFP photo).

lull of about 10 days in the conflict, which has rumhled on since 1988 despite frequent attempts at mediation by Russia, Iran and others.

Meanwhile in Georgia, Russian helicopters Saturday brought relief supplies and evacuated refugees from the blockaded town of Tkvartcheli in the secessionist Georgian province of Abkhazia.

news reports said. Also Saturday, clashes between the Georgian army and Abkhazian separatists continued. The Interfax News Agency quoted Ahkhazian reports as saying a Georgiao SU-25 fighter jet was shot down Saturday over

the river Gumista, which sepa-

rates the warring sides near the

The Georgian military confirmed the report, but said the place was safeguarding the Tkvartcheli airlift, Interfax reported_

The Abkhazians also shelled residential neighbourhoods of Sukhumi, wounding two people and damaging several houses, prompting Georgian artillery to return fire, according to the Georgian News Agency.

The Georgian military com-mand said Abkhazian militants planted a bomb Friday in a water reservoir near the towo of Ochamehira, leaving the Georgian-controlled town without drinking water.

Also Friday, a Georgian MI-8 military helicopter crash-landed in the Georgian town of Kutaisi.

the Georgian agency reported. It said officials blamed bad weather and strong winds for the crash, in which three crew members and five passengers died and several people suffered injuries.

Amid the violence, five Russian helicopters Saturday brought 22 tonnes of food and medicines to Tkvartcheli, which has been blockaded for several months by the Georgian troops, and re-turned with 277 elderly people, women and children aboard, Interfax and the ITAR-TASS News

Agency said.
Hundreds of people have been evacuated from Tkvartcheli in the framework of a U.N.-sponsored humanitarian action, and 553 refugees have temporarily settled in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi, ITAR-TASS said.

Russia protested to Georgia Saturday at the latest in a series of attacks on its military bases in the Transcaucasian state, Interfax

News Agency said.
The Russian army command in Georgia demanded "resolute measures" to investigate an attack on a depot in the capital Tbilisi in which 40 armed men beat up three Russian guards and made off with television sets, radios, cameras and vehicles.

It said that unless the incident was properly investigated, it would conclude the Georgian leadership had authorised acts of violence against Russian forces stationed in Georgia.

Georgia ordered an immediate investigation into Friday's attack, saying all necessary steps should be taken to punish the culprits, ITAR-TASS News Agency said. It was the latest in a spate of similar incidents which have severely damaged ties between the two former Soviet republics.

